

CHRONICLES OF THE "CROOKED" CLUB.

BY JAMES GREENWOOD.
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IV.—THE FALSE-BOTTOMED COFFIN.

Tony Frickles, a rough-looking man, but who at present was doing an excellent business by letting out to hire casket-mongers' barrows, had applied to be admitted a member. Having been proposed by a responsible "Crooked" at the appointed time, he was led into the lodge blindfold, of course. He was by no means a nervous man, and when the president had lengthily addressed him respecting the preliminaries to initiation, he remarked, "If I rightly understand the rules of this 'ere club, on admitting new members you are a bit particular as regards some branches of crookedness. You wouldn't let a man in, would you, who had done a murder job?"

"Certainly not," replied the president promptly; "and if you have ever put your foot in it to that extent, say so at once, and take yourself off."

"But there are different kinds of murder, sir," said Tony Frickles, "and I took the life of what then?"

"If you have got a crooked story to tell, so that we may judge you on your merits, out with it," returned the president bluntly, "and don't play the fool."

"But you wouldn't bar a man because he had killed a dog—no matter how he managed it. I must have that question answered before I can go on."

"You may have killed five-and-forty dogs, and still not be crooked enough for our company. Don't waste our time with your own, if you can't put in a stronger claim than that."

"You wait and hear before you jump at conclusions. I've asked my question, and I've had an answer. Don't forget that when I've told what I'm going to tell, and you sum me up."

"Here goes, then. There was an old man who lived in the same house where I lived. It don't matter how long ago it was. He lived in a back room at the top of the house, and I lived with the wife and youngsters in the front room. He was a lonely old man, and he had the character of being a miser who had a whole lot of money hoarded. He was too old to do any kind of work, but he had been a cabinet-maker."

"He was a mysterious being and miserable old life, and though he had occupied that same room ever so many years, nobody ever knew what it contained, except from what they could make out by peeping through the keyhole, which was a very small one, on account of it belonging to a patent lock he had put on his door, the inside of which he had likewise lined with thin sheets of iron. That very likely was the reason why people thought he was a miser. But I never thought that he was. He was out nearly all day long, and he always locked the door and took the key with him. If he only came down into the yard, or to fetch his garden's worth of milk, he always locked his door. We couldn't hear him doing it. He wasn't very talkative, but I used to speak to him sometimes, and chaff him about all the gold he had got hid away."

"If you hadn't got any money stowed away, says I, why did you have a patent lock put on your door, and cover the inside of it with iron?"

"And, says I, 'why keep a dog?' He kept a dog that lived and slept in the same room with him, and was a rough-haired white mongrel of no breed in particular. It wasn't very large, but it was a rare savage one, gentle enough towards the old man and to my wife, but a vicious beast to any one else. 'Why do you keep a dog?' says I. 'If you are so poor, you can't afford it. You don't feed him too high, for a mighty know, but he costs you something, don't you know?' At last, one day when I had been chaffing him in that manner, says he:

"'I'll tell you what I never told to any one else. I'm afraid of being murdered in my bed. I once went to a wizard, one who had dealings with the devil and was awfully clever, and he told me that unless I took every care that would be my fate. That's why I make my door more secure, and why I'm at the dreadful expense of keeping Judy'—that was the name of the dog. As for ever having money by us, he went on, 'the dread that haunts me is that when I die the parish will have to bury me.'"

"But I am all right as regards having a good coffin," says he. 'I've provided for that, though I don't suppose, living in the next room though you do, you ever suspected such a thing. I am a cabinet-maker, as you know, by trade, and I have bought the bits of elm one at a time as I saved up the money to pay for them, and I've got it done all complete, but the plate for the name and the date. And neighbour, says he, 'I've got a favour to beg of you. I have been very ill lately, though I haven't been to any doctor, and I believe I shall not be here much longer. I want you to promise to see me put in my own coffin when I am gone. I don't ask you to take the trouble for nothing. Do as I ask you, and you are welcome to all that is in my room, and I promise further that you shall find half a sovereign in this old tobacco box of mine, which I wish you to keep for my sake.'"

"It was a rum kind of request, but I had a sort of liking for the old chap."

"Let me have a look at the coffin," says I, 'I can scarce believe what you have been telling me unless you do.'"

"He didn't like to show it me, as I could tell by his manner, but he didn't like to refuse, and he let me into his room. Sure enough there was the coffin (there was nothing else in the place worth speaking of, except an old bed and bedstead, two chairs, a rickety deal table, and a dog kennel—in one corner, quite finished and ready as he said it was. It looked a rare good piece of workmanship, and I went and examined it while the old man held the lighted candle (it was at night time). It was standing upright."

"It is good solid stuff," says he, tapping the lid with his knuckles."

"So it seems," says I, rapping the bottom with my knuckles. He was very deaf, or he would have known from the sound the discovery I made. The coffin had a false bottom."

"Not being quite a born fool I saw through the whole thing in a flash. He was a miser, after all, and one of the greediest of the kind, for he was artfully contriving to have his money buried with him!"

"Say you will do what I ask of you," says he. "Swear, and make a poor and well-nigh penniless old man happy." So I promised, all the time meaning to have every blessed shilling there was between the double bottom of the coffin, you may depend."

"The question was, should I go for it without loss of time, or wait until he kicked the bucket? Anyhow, I couldn't rest satisfied till I had inquired further into it. So I watched my time, and got a key to open the patent lock on his door, and one day when he had gone out in I went. I had forgotten all about the dog. He never barked, or gave any sign of being in the room till I opened the door, and then he was at me like a lion. It was lucky I had a hammer in my hand. I took it thinking perhaps I might want it, and a chisel as well. I made a kick at him and missed him, and he came at me again, and I let him have me with the hammer and down he went, and he didn't get up again."

"Then I examined the coffin. I was right about the false bottom, and at one end there was a piece neatly wedged in to cover the hollow. I eased it out with the chisel, but the hollow was empty. I might have known that it would be. It was not likely that he would stow his money there—most likely it was in bank notes, and easily carried about him—until he felt pretty sure that the end was coming. That was what I should have guessed. The dog was still lying as though dead, but there wasn't a spot of blood

or anything to show how he had been killed, and when the old man came back and found it dead—of course I looked the door again—he must think no other than that it had died a natural death. 'It is a good job,' thinks I, 'that the brute is out of the way. He might have proved awkward another time.'"

"But the cursed thing wasn't dead at all. 'When the old man came home I listened inside my room, making sure to hear him make a fuss about it, and I gave me a bit of a turn to hear him say, 'Here's your supper, old girl,' and the dog backing and jumping up at him. He was only stunned after all, and came to of his own accord."

"But he didn't forget me. 'I met him on the stairs next morning, and up went a ridge of hair along his back and he showed his teeth, his eyes gleaming like live coals. But he was half afraid of me, and didn't fly, but backed into a corner and let me pass."

"Well, in less than a fortnight after the old man died. He kept his bed only two days, and I waited on him, as he didn't want anybody else to see the coffin. I kept my eye on it when I went in and out. I had placed a little bit of white cotton in the crack of the moving piece that covered the opening of the false bottom, and in the evening of the first day of his taking to his bed the piece of cotton had been shifted; which I set down as a good sign. My mind was easier then. The parish people came, and they had no objection to the old chap being buried in his own coffin, and he was put in it ready to be fetched away next day. I meant going into the room when all was quiet at night time."

"But first I managed to get rid of that infernal dog that sat under the coffin as it stood on the trestles, whining and shivering. Of course it wouldn't do for me to try and entice him away. The only one beside him and he would follow her everywhere. It was my wife, and he would follow her to the end of the world. I was at Bernouddsey where we were living, and after a lot of trouble she coaxed him out of the room and got him as far as the railway station and took him to Norwood, where she gave him the slip, and came by train by herself."

"Well, I thought it was all right then. That night, after the undertaker had been and screwed him down, and when everybody in the house was abed and asleep and the place quiet, I took a light to see what I could find. The coffin was, of course, still on the trestles, so that I had to kneel down to the job taking the sliding top of the coffin. I had taken out the sliding piece that concealed the false bottom, when all of a sudden he came at me. Lor a mighty only know how he found his way back, or how he got into the house without being seen. He must have got into the room when that screwing-down chap was there. He didn't bark. It was more like the howl of a mad dog the noise he made when he sprang out and pinned me. I was in my shirt sleeves, and he fastened on the thick part of my bare arm. I shrieked out with the fright and the pain, and all being so still my voice rang through the house and awoke my wife in the next room. In half a minute two other lodgers—brothers they were—came swarming up to see what the matter was. I didn't see 'em come in though, for I had fainted away, and they found me on the floor with my arm being torn and bleeding, for the dog had left go his hold and slunk away. But what must have puzzled them as much as anything there was the old man's coffin and with the secret of its false bottom plain to be seen."

"The two brothers helped my wife carry me into our room. They were a pair of bad ones, as I knew of old, and I suppose they were sharp enough to see the game I was up to. They went back to the old man's room after they had carried me to mine, and what there was in the false bottom the thundering thunders took. They swore to me afterwards that they didn't even know anything about the false bottom, but, that finding that they thought was a bit broken out of the side of the coffin, they put it back and knocked a nail in to keep it tight. I don't know how much they got. I only know that the Leger was run about a week after, and they both went down to Doncaster each with a new suit of clothes."

"But I didn't think so much of the loss, as having my revenge on that infernal dog."

"I was more frightened than hurt as regards the bite on my arm, so that I was able in a day or two to look after him. He stuck to the old man's room, crouching under the bedstead, which was an iron one, with open lattice laths to rest the mattress on. I got on the bedstead, and between the iron laths dropped a noose over his head, and then I had the beggar at my mercy."

"There wasn't much of that for him! 'I had made up my mind how I would serve him. I meant killing him by hunger and thirst. I bought a strong leather muzzle, and I strapped up his jaws tight, and I chained him up in the cupboard. He couldn't howl, he could only growl through his nose and glare at me when I went near him, but I didn't mind that."

"I got my satisfaction out of him. I bought him plenty of meat every day, and I took and laid it just beyond the length of his chain, so that he could smell it, and not taste it, and I took him a basin with fresh water in it every morning, and put it down within an inch of his nose. And so I kept him for five days and nights, for I had him strangled himself, leaning against the metal collar after the victuals and drink. And so we were quit."

"And now, if you think that I am crooked enough to join you, take off this blessed hankercher and give me a drink, for my throat is as dry as a moust as that brute's was, when at last it came to his poking out his tongue to reach the water."

"I am of opinion, my friend, that you will die of thirst, like that poor tortured beast did, if you wait until you are allowed to drink with us," remarked the president sternly. "How is it to be, gentlemen? Thumbs up for yes!"

"And every member raised his hands—his clenched fists rather."

"Not a thumb was visible. 'No,' is the verdict," said the president to the blindfolded rascal; "and if I may add a word to that, I will say it is a pity that that bite on your arm went for nothing. Many a better man has died raving mad who has less deserved it. Now you can go."

"And the two crooked ones was led out of the room and down the stairs, too astonished to say a word."

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT LIVERPOOL.
A destructive fire occurred at Liverpool on Thursday afternoon in a large warehouse on the south side of the Sandon Dock, used by the West India and Pacific Steam Company for the storage of merchandise for their vessels. The fire originated in the south-east corner of the warehouse and spread towards the west end. The shed is about 150 yards long and 15 feet high, and occupies the whole quay space on the south side of the dock. When the fire brigade reached the spot, the contents of the warehouse, principally cotton, were blazing furiously, and it was soon seen that the efforts of the firemen would be entirely futile, the fire having obtained a good hold of several thousand bales of cotton which were stored together. Attention was then directed to a couple of vessels which were lying alongside of the quay, and in imminent danger of catching fire. These were removed as quickly as possible from danger, and a better view could then be had of the hold the flames had. It could be seen that although the wind was blowing from the westward, the fire, instead of going in its direction, went in its fall, and it is supposed that this was caused by the doors at the east end of the shed being left open, thus causing a current of air to run in a westerly direction. At the west end of the shed there was a wall and this prevented the fire from totally destroying the warehouse, but as it was about one hundred yards of the building was entirely consumed, only the side walls being left standing."

At an inquest held on Saturday at the Royal Free Hospital the body of a labourer, aged 50, who met his death while employed in some building operations in the Clerkenwell district on the 11th inst., a verdict of accidental death was returned."

THE CHARGES OF FRAUD AND FORGERY.

At Westminster Police Court this week, Mrs. Gordon Baillie, alias Frost, Whyte, Bruce, &c.; Robert Percival Bodley Frost, said to be her husband; and Robert Gignier, butler, were placed in the dock for the fifth time, on remand, charged with general conspiracy to defraud, and obtaining goods and false representations, from a number of tradesmen and others, by the Public Prosecutor; Mr. H. J. Lewis defended Mrs. Gordon Baillie; and Mr. Duerdin Dutton was for the other prisoners. At the last hearing a charge was gone into against the female prisoner of getting the lease of a house in 1881 at Walthamstow and furniture by false pretences, but Mr. Wontner said he did not propose to tender any further evidence in respect to it. Mr. Charles White, chemist, of Buckingham Palace-road, stated Gignier gave him a cheque for £3 10s., which was dishonoured. Wilfrid Ellis, assistant to Mr. Harman, of 422, Strand, said that on the 10th of June the male prisoner drove up in a brougham, and selected two bales of the value of £1 11s. 6d., on credit. On June 25th Mrs. Frost ordered another hat, produced a cheque for £2 15s. on Herries, Farquhar, and Co., and received the change, 16s. The cheque was dishonoured. Mrs. Sarah Franks, milliner, of Mortimer-street, Cavendish-square, said that early in May Mrs. Gordon Baillie came to her and ordered a dress. At another visit Mrs. Frost said she wanted change for a cheque, so that she might give money to a poor woman. (Laughter.) Mr. Wontner: Charley begins at home. (Renewed laughter.)

Witness: The cheque was for £5, and was signed "Gordon Baillie," and endorsed "Frost." She paid it to her bankers, and it was dishonoured. Directly the report appeared in the newspapers the money was never applied to the female prisoner. She made no complaint of being defrauded. Julia Backof, deposed that she lived with her husband at Mr. Johnson's livery stables, Wilton-road, Pimlico. Early in May—on a Saturday—the female prisoner, with Mr. Frost, called and ordered a victoria for the following day. On the 9th of the month she paid an account of 25s. with a cheque for £6 10s. Witness obtained the change and took it to 5, Westminster Chambers in the evening. Gignier opened the door to witness, and when she told him that she desired to see Mrs. Frost to give her change for her cheque, he said it was a good job he had not gone out, as he had intended to, because she had locked the lady in. (Laughter.) Witness locked the lady in. Mr. Frost was locked in top. (Loud laughter.) The cheque was dishonoured. Mr. E. B. Williams, of Finsbury-road, Brighton, said he knew the prisoners. In February of the present year he let Frost a set of chambers, No. 5, Westminster Chambers. The arrangement was to pay the rent monthly in advance, and as this was not adhered to witness employed a broker to distrain. Directly a man was put in possession the prisoners quitted the chambers. Only the first month's rent was paid. Mr. Griffith Williams, tailor, of 20, Spring-street, Paddington, said Gignier called and told him he was going about a situation, and he wanted a suit of livery made. Later on he called again, and said he had got a situation with Mrs. Gordon Baillie, a rich lady from Australia, who had a large estate in Lancashire. (This announcement caused greatly to amuse the female prisoner, who, as she sat in the dock with a bunch of roses in her lap, buried her face in her hands and laughed loudly.) Witness called on Mrs. Gordon Baillie, and she selected a suit of "green for her servant." (A laugh.) No cheque was given, but he was never paid for the clothes, which were supplied in due course. Mr. Julian Thomas, journalist, of the Age office, Melbourne, said he knew a man named Knight Aston, a professional vocalist, who was still living. He only knew the female defendant and Frost by reputation. Knowing so much of Mrs. Gordon Baillie's proceedings in the colonies, he wished to see her. Mr. Lewis: At the present moment it has never been shown that this lady was married to Mr. Knight Aston. Mr. Wontner: But the certificate of the marriage will be produced at the proper time. An old gentleman named Bonham, who had been in court every day during the hearing of the case, said he wished to prefer a charge against Mrs. Gordon Baillie of defrauding him of £150 in 1883 and 1884. Mr. Wontner said he would submit his case to the Public Prosecutor. Mr. Lewis renewed his application for bail. Substantial misdeemeanors could be given. The charges were all misdemeanors. Mr. Wontner: I don't wish to say anything to prejudice this lady (Mrs. Gordon Baillie), but she evaded arrest, and is a lady of wandering propensities. (Laughter, in which Mrs. Gordon Baillie joined.) He was afraid if she was liberated on bail she would never see her again. All the prisoners pleaded not guilty, and were committed for trial, bail being refused. Mr. and Mrs. Frost were subsequently brought from the cells to be interrogated as to their marriage. In answer to the magistrate, the female said she married Frost at Brussels on the 4th of May, 1886, in a schoolroom attached to a church. Mr. Lewis said it would be part of his duty, in defending Mrs. Gordon Baillie, to consider the propriety of proving her a married woman. The female: We were married as English visitors by a Catholic priest. Mr. Lewis: No doubt the onus of proving the marriage will rest on him if the defence cannot prove it. The witness said that she divorced her husband in Australia, and therefore Frost was her husband."

A WIFE BEATER SENT TO PRISON.
George Poschmann, 38, living in Archer-street, was charged at Marlborough-street Police Court with having committed a violent assault on his wife. The prosecutrix stated that she had been married about thirteen years, but left her husband some time ago owing to his ill-treatment. He never gave her any money to maintain herself, and for the last ten years had behaved cruelly towards her. On going to his house, she had to bring him before a court on four or five different occasions, and he had only come out of prison on the 21st inst., after undergoing a month's imprisonment for failing to find sureties to keep the peace towards her. No sooner had he left goal than he came to her residence, and, after kissing his son, seized her by the back of the neck. She fell down, and while on the ground he put his hand in her mouth and tore the flesh, thus causing blood to flow copiously. He tried to break her teeth, and said he would pull her tongue out. An emphatic denial was the husband's defence. He declared that his wife injured her own mouth so as to get him into trouble. He was, however, sentenced to four months' imprisonment, and in addition the magistrate granted the wife a judicial separation."

AN ALGERIAN DOMESTIC DRAMA.
An extraordinary domestic drama is reported from Arzew, in Algeria. A chemist of that town, named Maximy, had for some time suspected the fidelity of his wife, so he resolved to remove with her from Arzew to a farm which he leased in an adjoining district. All went well for some time, says the Paris correspondent of a contemporary, until the other day, during dinner, Madame Maximy put some acetic in a bottle of wine while her husband's back was turned, and calmly awaited results. The chemist took two or three glasses of the stuff, and no sooner had he done so than he felt violent qualms. Immediately suspecting the real state of affairs, he took up the wine that remained in the bottle, and subjected it to a rough analysis. Finding his suspicions confirmed, he went for a revolver, and with it shot his wife dead as she still sat at the table. The poison in the meantime had not done its work. For M. Maximy, thanks to his professional knowledge and experience, was able to treat himself medicinally, and in a fair way to recover completely from the attack upon his life."

THE SWEATING SYSTEM. Army Contracts.

Mr. Nepean, director of Army contracts, was examined on Monday before the Sweating Committee of the House of Lords, Lord Onslow, in the absence of Lord Dunraven, presiding. In reference to the clothing of the Army and Militia, he stated that the cloth was obtained by contract, and distributed to the Government factories at Pimlico, to the contractors, or the regiment, to be made up into clothing. During the last three years the cloth—kersey, serge, and tweeds—obtained averaged over a million yards a year. All the Government clothing was made from material provided by the Government, and in no case did the contractor get his own material for the Army and Militia. He thought about 1,200 hands were employed in the factory, and there was an order that outside hands were not to be employed. The factory clause was inserted in all the Army contracts, and that had the effect of abolishing the employment of outside hands to the best of witness's belief. Sweaters could not take a contract and comply with the terms of it so long as that clause was in it. The contract for the supply of clothing to the metropolitan police, which was partly paid for out of the rates and partly out of the Consolidated Fund, was about to terminate, and it had been arranged that the factory clause should be adopted."

Police Clothing.
Mr. W. J. Gunton, of Messrs. Gunton and Son, contractors for police clothing, was next examined, and stated that his firm did not give out a single garment to sweaters, the whole clothing being made at the improvement in machinery, he thought clothing could be made as cheaply in factories as by sweating. Mr. Plum, manager of the military outfitting department of the Army and Navy Co-operative Society, stated that the person Marks, described by the witness Lyons as a sweater, received during the last twelve months £1,170 11s. 9d., overage weekly wages amounting to £38 18s. 7d. In reference to Lyons's statement that a deputation of the men had waited on the directors, complaining that work was given to outside sweaters while they were left idle, he said that the men in question had refused to do a certain class of work, and it consequently had to be given out. As the stores employed these people in the busy season they were bound to employ them during the slack season. The work was not given out in this way to punish the men. He denied that work was given to outside sweaters, while their own workmen were sitting idle and seeing it go out. Marks might get about one-twentieth of the work of the stores. The stores employed altogether about twenty outside firms."

Other Evidence.
Mr. Grosvenor, chairman of the Army and Navy Stores, corroborated the previous witness, and stated that Marks's workshop was an excellent one, and had personally inspected it. He believed the same remark applied to Wilkie. Mr. Marks was next examined, and stated that the average hours in his factory were from twelve to fourteen hours a day, and on very, very rare occasions, the workmen had been engaged for fourteen hours. He paid two-thirds of what he received to his men. He also did work for the Civil Service Stores. Mr. J. Smith and Mr. Wilkie were next examined. The latter received from the Army and Navy Stores about £20 a week in the busy season, and paid two-thirds of it to his workpeople. Mr. Bramwell Booth, of the Salvation Army, gave evidence in reference to the statement that the evidence in reference to the statement that the Salvation Army people were making them for 2d. and said that there was no foundation whatever for the statement, either in reference to matchboxes, matches, or laundry work. After some further evidence, the inquiry for the present session was closed."

A CITY BETTING CASE.
In the Lord Mayor's Court, the case of Harward v. Wilcox came on for trial this week, before the recorder (Sir R. Chambers, Q.C.), and a jury. The plaintiff, Mr. L. A. Harward, who described himself as a tea merchant, of Gresham-street, sought to recover £13, money lent. The defendant, Mr. E. R. Wilcox, a traveller for a City house, denied that he owed any money, and said the claim was in respect of bets which he had had with the plaintiff. The plaintiff said he carried on business as a tea merchant and as a commission agent. He lent the defendant the money on December 1st, paying him in gold, and taking an I.O.U.—in cross-examination, plaintiff denied that he had been, or was, a bookmaker. He admitted that he had been fined for betting. It was at a public-house in Aldersgate-street. The money was lent at the office, 1, Gresham-street. Mr. R. Balow said he was a fellow clerk with the plaintiff. They were both clerks to Messrs. Harward Bros., who were tea commission agents. Witness said the money advanced to the defendant. The defendant said he never borrowed a farthing of the plaintiff, who was one of four brothers carrying on business as bookmakers in the City. He lent the money now claimed at betting. He backed The Baron to win the Derby at 25 to 5. Mr. Glyn: What does that mean? You back him to win or to lose? I don't know. Defendant: To win, and he lost. The Recorder: "Baron" is the name of the horse, I suppose?—Yes, my lord.—The Recorder: Has he got a Christian name? (Laughter.)—No, my lord. Continuing, the defendant said he had known the plaintiff eight years, and had bet with him as a bookmaker direct. When defendant could not pay the plaintiff sent round to his firm. Mr. J. A. Campbell said he had had bets direct with the plaintiff, being paid the winnings in full, thus showing that no commission was deducted. He had heard the plaintiff say he was only a clerk, but witness believed that to be untrue. Mr. Stephen Wheeler, in business in Bread-street, gave evidence to the effect that the plaintiff was a bookmaker. The plaintiff, recalled, denied that he was a partner in the firm of Harward Brothers. He was a clerk, the real partners being Mr. Henry and Mr. James Harward. The plaintiff had a salary of £3 per week for what he did. Plaintiff was further cross-examined by Mr. Glyn as to his means. He said he kept a banking account at the National Provincial Bank of England. Mr. Glyn, in addressing the jury, said that persons like the plaintiff's firm were perfect curses to the City, because with all their many branches they induced young clerks to bet their money away, very often to their own ruin. The jury said they had made up their minds. The recorder said they had better hear the case out. The defendant had acknowledged the debt by the I.O.U.—The jury eventually found for the defendant."

THE LOSS IN BUSTLES.
How much time do women lose in the year by wearing bustles? An ingenious manager of a factory in America, who has issued a mandate against the wearing of bustles by his employees, justifies his law by the following calculation:—A girl will arrange her bustle five times a day, occupying one minute's time whenever she does so, and that makes a loss of five minutes. Where there are twelve girls it means the loss of an hour. Then they will leave the shop five times more, which takes five minutes each time. That makes twenty-five minutes, or, you might say, half an hour. Twelve girls, each losing half an hour, means a loss of six hours, added to the bustle hour, makes seven. This means a great deal of money when you are paying the girls by the week. Seven hours a day means forty-two hours a week. Taking the bustle-wearing population of London at one million only, the daily loss of time at this rate in London alone is equal to more than fifty years."

A little girl named Bond, at Hutton-le-Hole, in Durham, had a narrow escape during a storm. She was sitting in an outdoor knitting, when a flash of lightning struck the needles into the most peculiar position, but the girl herself was unharmed beyond being frightened."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

SYSTEMS OF HOSPITAL LAYERS. By Honor Morten. One vol. Price 1s. Published by Sampson Low, Marston, Scarle, and Rivington, Fleet-street. Some of the papers contained in this little volume have appeared before, but they have sufficient merit to justify republication. Taken on the whole, they convey to their readers not a few glimpses of the inner working of hospital management. Their literary quality is also considerable, a virtue which helps to render the book pleasant as well as instructive reading. It is, perhaps, to be regretted that the authors did not delay publication until she had more matter on hand; the contents are good as far as they go, but they do not go far enough for a shilling.

WORK OF A FRIEND. By James Peddie. One vol. Price 1s. Published by William Paterson, London and Edinburgh. The English school of sensational fiction is decidedly improving. At first, it was terrible crude and raw, but latterly some highly skilled samplers have been produced, and there seems every promise of really good workmanship before long. The book now before us is one of these favourable specimens. Skilful in plot, full of dramatic interest cleverly worked out, it captures the reader's attention with all the grip of a work by Boigobey or Gaborian. Whether this be a wholesome sort of literature need not be discussed in this place. Our critical duty begins and ends in reporting on the books submitted to our judgment, and in the discharge of that function, we pronounce that Mr. Peddie's thrilling tale is a chef d'œuvre in its own way.

THE DOMINION OF DARKNESS. By the Count of Tolstoi. One vol. Price 1s.—The Count's MARRIAGE. By Alexis Bouvier. One vol. Price 1s. Both works published by Vizetelly and Co., Henrietta-street. The former of these translations is a Russian play, the circulation of which has been suppressed by the Czar. The second work is a French sensational novel of the usual type, which might, perhaps, have been suppressed by the Republican Government without much loss to public morality. It is full of excitement, all the same, whereas Count Tolstoi's drama sometimes grows uncommonly dull. We should have imagined that the Russian people would have run little danger from reading it, except that of falling asleep.

GREAT STRIKE IN PARIS.
The navies employed by the Paris contractors have struck work. The movement commenced at the Exhibition works on the Champ de Mars, where for several days the navies had been demanding the application of the tariff fixed by the Municipal Council in 1883—that is to say, sixty centimes an hour, instead of the forty-five or fifty centimes paid them by the contractors. The strike spread rapidly, and now almost every navy in Paris has joined in willingly, and has been forced to do so. The men from the Champ de Mars went at once in a body of about five hundred to the Boulevard Suchet, where twenty-seven navies were employed, and threatened to break their tools if they did not immediately cease work. They did so, but the men from the Exhibition works broke some implements before they left. Unfurling a tricolour flag, they then marched in procession to the Place d'Hotel de ville, and, on their way, carried the men who were repairing the foundations of the Pont Neuf to join them. After manifesting in front of the Hotel de Ville the navies held a meeting at the Bourse de Travail, where they were joined by a great number of men who had struck work in all parts of Paris, and especially at St. Denis, where important works are being executed at the canal and gas works. The proceedings at the meeting were very orderly. From what the men who spoke said, it appears that the navies demand sixty centimes an hour, one franc twenty centimes per hour for night work, and the reduction of the working day to nine hours. It was unanimously agreed to continue the strike till these conditions should be accepted. On leaving the meeting the three thousand navies who had attended it dispersed quietly. Twelve of the men on strike were chosen by the meeting to go as a delegation from the navies to the Municipal Council, to urge that assembly to intervene in their favour. The navies have also appealed to the Socialist newspapers for support. They demand that all the Socialist and Radical journals should at once open subscriptions, to enable them to persevere in the movement till all their demands are complied with. According to the Temps and the Debats, it is nevertheless certain that many of the men were only induced to join the strike by acts of intimidation. The delegates from the navies on strike were received by the Bureau of the Municipal Council. M. Vaillant at the sitting of the council proposed that a sum of twenty thousand francs should be voted to assist them in their movement. Urgent was demanded for the proposal, but it was refused."

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By B. L. FARJEON.

AUTHOR OF "GREAT PORTER SQUARE," "THE MINE OF HEARTS," "THE TRAGEDY OF FEATHERSTONE," "MISERABLE FATHER," ETC.

INTRODUCTION.

IN WHICH REFERENCE IS MADE TO A STRANGE, UNPROMISING BEGINNING THROUGH WHOM INSTRUMENTALITY AN AWFUL MYSTERY WAS SOLVED.

The manner in which I became intimately associated with a fearful mystery with which, not only all London, but all England was rife, and the strange, inexplicable being whose the course of events brought to my knowledge, are so startling and wonderful, that I have grown to believe that by no effort of the imagination, however wild and bewildering the labyrinth into which it may lead a man, can the actual realism of our everyday life be overthrown. What I am about to narrate is absolutely true—some of the human fancy could never have invented it. To a person unfamiliar with the wondrous life of a great city like London the story may appear impossible, but there are thousands of men and women who will immediately recognise in it features with which they became acquainted through the columns of the newspapers. I venture to say that the leading incident by which one morning it was but yesterday—the great city was thrilled and horrified can never be entirely effaced from their memories. Dark crimes and deeds of heroism, in which the incidents are pathetic or pitiful, draw even strangers into sympathetic relation with each other. These events come home to us, as it were. What happened to one whose face we have never seen, whose hand we have never grasped, may happen to us who move in the same familiar grooves of humanity. Our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows, our duties and temptations, are the same, because we are human; and it is this common tie of kinship that will cause the story of Devlin the Barber to be received with more than ordinary interest. Now, for the first time is revealed, in these pages, the strange manner in which the fearful mystery in which it was enshrouded was unravelled. The facts are as I shall relate them, and whatever the impression they may create, a shuddering curiosity must inevitably be aroused as to the nature and movements of the inscrutable being through whose instrumentality I was made the agent in revealing what would otherwise have remained for ever hidden from human knowledge. By a few incredulous persons—I refer to those to whom nothing spiritual is demonstrable—the existence of this being may be doubted; but none the less does he live and move among us this very day, pursuing his mission with a purpose, and to an end which it is not in the power of mortal insight to fathom. It is not unlikely that some of my readers may have come unconsciously in contact with him within the last few hours.

CHAPTER I.

IN WHICH AN ACCOUNT IS GIVEN OF THE GOOD FORTUNE WHICH BEFELL MR. MELLADREW.

I am a struggling man—the phrase will be well understood, for the class to which I belong is a large one—and reside in a neighbourhood which is neither very poor nor very fashionable. I have, of course, my friends and acquaintances, and among the most intimate of the former is a family of the name of Melladrew.

Mr. Melladrew is a reader in a printing office in which a weekly newspaper is printed. Mrs. Melladrew, with the assistance of one small servant, manages the home. They had two daughters, twins, eighteen years of age, named respectively Mary and Elizabeth. These girls were very beautiful, and were so much alike that they were frequently mistaken for one another. Mrs. Melladrew has told me that when they were young she was compelled to make some distinguishing mark in their dress to avoid confusion in her recognition of them, such as different coloured socks or pieces of ribbon. The home of the Melladrews was a happy one, and the sisters loved each other sincerely. They were both in out-door employment, in the establishments of a general linen-draper and a fashionable dressmaker. Mary was in the employment of the linen-draper—Limbird's, in Regent-street. It is a firm of wide repute, and employs a great number of hands, some of whom sleep in the house. This was the case with Mary Melladrew, who went to her work on Monday morning and did not return home until Saturday night. Elizabeth, or Lizzie, as she was always called, was employed by Madame Michel, fashionable dressmaker, in Baker-street. She went to her work at half past eight every morning, and returned home at half past seven every night.

The printing office in which Mr. Melladrew is engaged employs two readers, a night reader and a day reader. Mr. Melladrew is the day reader, his hours being from nine in the morning till seven in the evening. But on Saturdays he has a much longer spell; he is due in the office at eight in the morning, and he remains until two or three hours past midnight—a stretch of eighteen or nineteen hours. By that time all the work for the Sunday edition of the weekly newspaper is done, and the outside pages are being worked off on the steam press.

Now, upon the Saturday morning on which, so far as I am concerned, the enthralling interest of my story commences, certain important events had occurred in my career, and in that of Mr. Melladrew. Exactly one month previous to that day the firm in which I had been employed for great many years had given me a month's notice to leave. My dismissal was not caused by any lapse of duty on my part; it was simply that business had been for some time in a bad state, and that my employers found it necessary to reduce their staff. Among those who received notice to quit, I, unfortunately, was included. Therefore, when I rose on Saturday morning, I was in the dismal position of a man out of work, my time having expired on the day before. This was of serious importance to me. With Mr. Melladrew the case was different. In what unexpectedly occurred to him there was bright sunshine, to be succeeded by black clouds.

He had visited me on the Friday night, and I perceived at once that he was in a state of intense and pleasurable excitement.

"I have come to tell you some good news," he said.

For a moment I thought that this good news might affect myself, and might bring about a favourable turn in my affairs; but Mr. Melladrew's next words dispelled the hope.

"I am the happiest man in London," he said. I reflected gravely, but not enviously, upon my own position, and waited for Mr. Melladrew to explain himself.

"Did I ever mention to you," he asked, "that I had a brother-in-law in Australia?"

"Yes," I replied, "you have spoken of him two or three times."

"He had almost passed out of my mind," said Mr. Melladrew, "it was until quite lately, so many years since my wife heard from him. He is her brother, you know, and his name is Portland, Richard Portland. That was my wife's name before we were married—not Richard, of course, but Portland." He laughed, and rubbed his leg with his right hand; in his left hand was a letter. "It was about eight months ago that we received a letter from him, asking us to give him information about our family and circumstances. He did not say anything about his own, so we were left quite in the dark as to whether he was rich or poor, or a married man or a bachelor. However, my wife answered his letter, and sent him the pictures of our two girls, and in her letter she asked whether he was married and had a family, and said also that she would like him to send us their pictures. Well, we heard nothing further from him till to-day. Another letter came from him while I was at the office. You may read it; there is nothing private in it. It isn't from Australia; it is written from

Southampton, you see. But that is not the only surprise in it."

I took the letter, and read it. It was, indeed, a letter to give pleasurable surprise to the receiver. Without any announcement to Mr. Melladrew of his intention, Mr. Portland had left Australia, and was now in Southampton. He intended to start by an early train on Saturday morning for London, and would come straight to his brother-in-law's house. In the letter he replied to the questions put by Mrs. Melladrew. He was a bachelor, without family ties of any kind in Australia. Moreover, he had made his fortune, and it was the portraits of his two nieces which were the main cause of his return to England. Their beauty had evidently made a deep impression upon him. He spoke of them and of Mrs. Melladrew in the most affectionate terms, and said it was a great pleasure to him to think that he was coming to a home which he hoped he might look upon as partly his own. He sent his warmest love to them all, and in pleasantly tender words, the meaning of which was scarcely by mistake, he desired a message to be given to his "dear nieces," to the effect that "their ship had come home." I handed the letter back to Mr. Melladrew, and expressed my gratification at the good news.

"It is good news," he said, gleefully, "the best of news. I knew you would be pleased. I am wondering whether it is a large or a small fortune he has made. My wife says a large one."

"And I say a large one," I remarked.

"What makes you of that opinion?" inquired Mr. Melladrew.

"Well, in the first place there are so many large fortunes made in Australia."

"That is true."

"Then, money being so much more plentiful there than here, a man gets to think less of a little than we do. His ideas become larger, I mean. At any time these last dozen years a hundred pounds would have been a God-send to me, and I should have thought of it so."

"So would I," interposed Mr. Melladrew.

"But if you and I were in a land of gold, we should, I dare say, think much more lightly of a hundred pounds. I wish I had emigrated when I was first married; I had the chance, and let it slip. But it's no use crying over spilt milk."

"Not a bit of use," said Mr. Melladrew; "life's a perpetual grind here, and I am truly grateful for the light this letter has let in upon us. You've given me two reasons for thinking my brother-in-law's fortune a large one. Have you any others?"

"Well, he speaks of your daughters' ship having come home. That looks as if he meant to provide for them."

"It does look like it," said Mr. Melladrew; and I saw that my arguments had given him pleasure.

"My wife has a reason, also, for thinking so. She says, when Dick—that is her brother, you know—went away he declared he would never come back to England unless he could come back a very rich man. And," says my wife, "what Dick said, he did stick to." He didn't have a sovereign to bless himself with when he left England, and now—but it's no use speculating. We shall know everything soon. You will understand my feelings; you have children of your own."

I had indeed, and it made me useful to think of them. Getting another situation in such hard times was no easy matter.

"It isn't for myself," resumed Mr. Melladrew, "that I am overjoyed at the better prospect before us, it is for my girls. Perhaps it means that they will not have to go out to work any longer. They are good girls, but they are so pretty, and have such engaging ways, that I have often been disturbed by the circumstance of their not being so much under my own and their mother's eyes as we would wish them to be. It could not be helped hitherto. There's the question of dress, now. You can manage tolerably well when they're little girls; a clever woman like my wife can turn, and twist, and cut up old things in a way to make the little ones look quite nice; but when they become young women, with all sorts of new ideas in their pretty heads, it is another pair of shoes. It's natural, too, that they should want a little pocket money to spend upon innocent pleasures and harmless vanities. We were young ourselves once, weren't we? We found we couldn't afford to give the girls what they wanted. They saw it, too, so they made up their minds, without saying a word to us, to look out for situations for themselves, and for months they haven't been a farthing's expense to us. They even give their mother a trifle a week towards the home. Good girls, the best of girls. I should be a miserable man without them. Still, as I said, I have been uneasy about them, there are so many scoundrels in the world ready with a word to turn a girl's head, and it hurts me to think that they have their little secrets which they don't ask us to share. Now, thank God, it will be all right. My brother-in-law will be here to-morrow, and when he sees Lizzie and Mary he will be confirmed in his kind intentions towards them. They can leave their situations, and if any man wishes to pay them attentions he can do so in a straightforward manner in the home in which they were brought up."

He was in the blitheliest of spirits, and I cordially renewed my congratulations on his good fortune. In return, he condescended to me on the unpromising change in my own prospects. I was not very cheerful—no man could be in such a position—but I am not in the habit of magnifying my misfortunes to my friends, and I plucked up my spirits.

"You will soon get another situation," said Mr. Melladrew.

"I hope so," I replied; "I cannot afford to keep long out of one."

"It may be in my power to give you a lift," he said kindly. "Who knows what may turn up in the course of the next few hours?"

I attached no significance to this uncommon remark at the time it was uttered, but it recurred to me afterwards, charged with sad and terrible import. We fell to again discussing the matter of which he was full.

"I am almost ashamed of my good luck," said Mr. Melladrew, "when I think what has happened to you."

"A man must accept the ups and downs of life with courage," I said, "and must put the best face he can upon them."

We were true friends, and I had a sincere respect for him as a worthy fellow who had faithfully performed his duties to his family and employers. He was passionately fond of his two daughters, and frequently spoke of them as the greatest blessing in his life. It was, indeed, delightful to witness the affection he bestowed upon them in the happy home of which he was the head. They were girls of which any man might have been proud, being not only beautiful, but bright and witty, and full of animation.

Mr. Melladrew and I chatted together for another half hour, and then he wished me good night.

"It is fortunate," he said, "that I got away from the office an hour earlier than usual. I shall be at home when Lizzie returns from her work, and I want to be the first to tell her the good news. How excited she will be! There was a friend at the house last night who told us our fortunes. Lizzie is very fond of having her fortune told. There, father, she says, 'didn't my fortune say that I was to receive a letter? And I've got one. As if there was anything out-of-the-way in receiving a letter! Last night she was told that a great and wonderful surprise was in store for her. Well, there is, but I am certain the fortune-teller knew as much about its nature as the man in the moon.'"

"And Mary," I said, "Will you tell her to-night?"

"No," replied Mr. Melladrew, "we will wait till she comes home to-morrow. When she sees her uncle from Australia sitting in my arm-chair, she won't know what to think of it. Happy girls, happy girls!"

"And happy father and mother too," I said.

"Yes, yes," he said with great feeling, "and happy father and mother too."

It was in no envious spirit that I contrasted his

good luck with my bad, but had I suspected what the next few hours had in store for him I should have thanked God for my lot. We have reason to be profoundly grateful for the ills we escape.

CHAPTER II.

I AM THE RECIPIENT OF TERRIBLE NEWS.

On Saturday morning I rose early, with the strange feelings of a man whose habits of life had been suddenly and violently wrenched out of their usual course. I wandered up and down the stairs, and into the room in the house, and to the street-door, where I stood looking vacantly along the street, perhaps for the situation I had lost, as though it were something I had dropped by accident, and could pick up again. Two or three neighbours passed and gave me good morning, and one paused and asked if I was not well.

"Not well?" I echoed, somewhat irritably; "I am well, quite well. What makes you think otherwise?"

"Oh," he answered apologetically, "only seeing you here, that's all. It's so unusual."

He passed on, looking once or twice behind him. Unusual? Of course it was unusual. Everything seemed to be turned topsy-turvy. If the people in the street had walked on their heads instead of their feet it would not have surprised me very much. I should have regarded it as quite in keeping with the fact that I was standing at my own street-door in idleness at half past eight o'clock on a Saturday morning. I could not remember the time when such a thing had occurred to me.

Standing thus in a state of semi-stupefaction, the postman came up and gave me a letter. This recalled me to myself.

"Now," thought I, as I turned the envelope over in my hand, "whom is it from, and what does it contain?"

At first I had an unreasonable hope that it was from my employers, imploring me to come back, but a glance at the address convinced me that it was a foolish hope. The writing was strange to me, and the envelope was a common one, and was fastened with sealing wax, bearing the impression of a thimble. I opened and read the letter, and although it did not contain the offer of a situation, or hold out the prospect of one, the contents interested me. I shall have occasion presently to refer to this letter more particularly, and shall at present content myself with saying that had it not arrived this story would never have been written. While my wife and I were at breakfast we spoke of it, and I said it was my intention to comply with the request it contained.

Over breakfast, also, we reviewed our position. During my years of employment I had managed to save very little money, and upon reckoning up what I had in my purse and what I owed, I arrived at a balance in my favour of a little less than four pounds, which represented the whole of my worldly wealth. A poor look-out, and I was reflecting upon it gloomily, when my good little wife, with a tender deprecating smile, laid before me on the table a Post Office savings' book.

"What is this?" I asked.

"Look," she replied.

The book was made out in her name, and the small deposits, extending over a number of years, made therein, showed a credit of more than twenty pounds.

"Yours?" I said, in wonder. "Really yours?"

"No," said my wife. "Yours."

My heart beat with joy; these twenty pounds were like a reprieve. I should have time to look about, without being tortured by fears of immediate want. I drew my wife to my side, and embraced her. Twenty pounds, with which to commence over again the battle of life! Why, it was a fortune! How the little woman had contrived to save so much out of her scanty housekeeping money was a mystery to me, but she had done it by hook or by crook, as the saying is, and she now experienced a true and sweet delight in handing it over to me.

"Well," said I, rubbing my hands cheerfully, "things might look worse than they do—a great deal worse. We have a little store to help us over compulsorily idle days, and thank God all the children are well."

It was much to be grateful for, and we kissed each other in token of our gratitude, and also as a pledge that we would not lose heart, but would battle bravely on.

I had just finished my second cup of tea when the street door was hastily opened, and my friend Mr. Melladrew staggered, or rather fell into the room, with a face as white as a ghost. His limbs were trembling so that he could not stand, and my wife, much alarmed, started up and helped him into a chair.

On this special morning we had breakfasted late, and as my wife was assisting Mr. Melladrew, the clock struck ten.

It sometimes happens that the most ordinary occurrences become of unusual importance by reason of circumstances with which they have no connection. Thus it was that the striking of ten o'clock, as I gazed upon the white face of my visitor, filled me with an apprehension of impending evil.

"Good God!" I cried. "What has happened?"

My thought was that there had been an accident to the train by which Mr. Melladrew expected his brother-in-law from Southampton, but I was soon undeceived. It was difficult to extract anything intelligible from Mr. Melladrew in his terrible state of agitation; but eventually I was placed in possession of the following particulars.

Mr. Melladrew had risen early and had left his wife alone, and as Mrs. Melladrew's custom on Saturday mornings was to take half-an-hour extra in the way of sleep, and Mr. Melladrew would prepare his own breakfast on these occasions. He did so on this morning, and left his house at twenty minutes to eight. At eight o'clock punctually he was sitting at his desk in the printing office, reading proofs. Everything was going on as usual, the only pleasant difference being the extraordinary lightness of Mr. Melladrew's heart as he thought of his rich brother-in-law from Australia, perhaps at that very hour stepping into the train for London, and of his two darling children, Lizzie and Mary. He did not, however, allow his contemplation to interfere with his duty, and his work proceeded uninterruptedly until half-past nine, when he sent his young assistant, a reading boy, into the composing-room with the last proofs he had read, telling him to bring back any more that were ready. A workman at the galley-press had just pulled off a column of newly set-up matter, and the lad, without waiting for it to be delivered to him, took the slip from the printer's hand, and returned quickly to the reading-room. Mr. Melladrew, receiving the slip from his assistant, was about to commence arranging the "copy," which the lad had also brought with him, when a compositor rushed in, and snatching both slip and "copy" from Mr. Melladrew's desk, hurriedly left the room.

"What's that for?" inquired Mr. Melladrew.

"I don't know, sir," replied the lad; "but there's something 'up' in the composing-room. The men are all standing, talking in a regular fuster."

"What about?"

"Ain't got a notion, sir; but they seem regular upset."

Curious to ascertain what was going on, Mr. Melladrew strolled into the composing-room, and was struck by the sudden silence which ensued upon his entrance. It was all the more singular because Mr. Melladrew, as he pushed the door open, heard the men speaking in excited voices, and had half a fancy that he heard his own name uttered in tones of pity. "Poor Melladrew!"

Yes, it was not a fancy. "The words had been uttered at the moment of his entrance. The silence of the compositors, their pitying looks, confirmed it. But why should they speak of him as 'Poor Melladrew' at a time when life had never been so bright and fair? What was the meaning of the pitying glances directed towards him? The composing-room, especially on Saturdays, was a scene of lively bustle and animation, but now the men were standing idle, stick in hand,

at the corners of their frames, or tip-toeing over their cases, and the eyes of every man there were fixed upon Mr. Melladrew. Had he been in trouble, had his wife or one of his darling daughters been ill, his thoughts would have immediately flown to his home, and he would have seen in the pitying glances of the compositors a sign of some dread misfortune. But in his happy mood he received no such impression.

"What on earth is the matter with you all?" he said in a light tone.

He saw the compositor who had snatched the slip of new matter from his desk, and before he could be prevented he took it from the man's hand.

The compositors found their voices.

"No, Mr. Melladrew," they cried. "No; don't, don't!"

"Nonsense," he said, and keeping possession of the slip, he left the composing-room for his own.

"Go and get the copy," he said to the lad, who had followed him.

When the lad was gone he spread the slip on the desk before him. The first words he saw formed the title of the column he was about to read: "Horrible Murder in Victoria Park!"

Beneath it were the sub-headings, "Stabbed to the Heart!" and "A Bunch of Blood-stained Daisies!" To a newspaper reader such events, shocking though they be, are unhappily no novelties, and Mr. Melladrew looked down the column, I will not say mechanically, for he was a humane man, but steadily, and stirred no doubt by pity and indignation. But before he had got half way down the pulsations of his heart seemed to stop, and the words swam before his eyes. His eyes lighted on the name of the girl who had been murdered.

It was that of his own daughter, Lizzie Melladew!

(To be continued.)

THE JEALOUS WIFE'S MISTAKE.

Mrs. Mary Andrews, the wife of a surgeon residing at 2, Gladstone-terrace, Wood Green, appeared before Mr. Partridge, at the Wandsworth Police Court, to answer a summons for committing a violent assault upon Mrs. Westley, a lady residing at 1, Dafforne-road, Upper Tooting.

—Mr. John Haynes supported the summons, and asked the magistrate to deal with the case as one of an aggravated assault. —The complainant deposed that on the 11th of June the defendant came to the house apparently in a state of excitement, and inquired if nurse Jessie Tinnercliffe was living there. Witness told her that she knew no person of that name. She then stated that her husband had deserted her, and was paying improper attentions to a woman named Tinnercliffe. She produced a piece of blotting-paper on which was written an address, and suggested that she (witness) was the nurse. Witness repudiated the allegation, whereupon the defendant attacked her, striking her in the face. Her maid came to her assistance, and she ran out of the house followed by the defendant, who struck her with her umbrella, causing her nose to bleed. She was nearly stunned. The defendant produced the blotting-paper which bore the impression of the following words:—"With affectionate love, believe me, your devoted wife, Lizzie Andrews, George, Mrs. Jessie Tinnercliffe, 1, Dafforne-road." The complainant added that at the time of the assault she was within a week of her confinement. —The defendant, who seemed to feel her position acutely, occasionally giving way to crying, asked for the production of a letter which she had forwarded her. —The letter was read by the clerk, and it contained an expression of regret, together with an explanation of her conduct, and stating that she was suffering from a great sense of wrong at the time. —Mr. Partridge said the letter was an apology throughout. —The defendant, in answer to the complaint, expressed her regret for what had taken place, and was willing to tender her apologies to the complainant.

—Partridge said she had been guilty of a serious assault, but he had no doubt that she laboured under an erroneous impression at the time. He fined her £3, and ordered her to pay two guineas costs.

CHARGE AGAINST DR. BARNARDO.

Dr. Barnardo, of Stepney Causeway, was summoned before Mr. Montagu Williams, at the Thames Police Court, for assaulting Eliza Whitbread, and also her sister Dora. —Mr. Reginald M. Bray, barrister, prosecuted. —Mr. George A. Young, solicitor, defended. —Miss Eliza Whitbread said her father had a yard at 28, Stepney Causeway. Those premises were to the south of the railway, and the gates were on the north side, opening outwards and leading into the Commercial-road, and there was a way about fifteen feet in width. On the 17th inst. she went to the gates and found her father standing on the barrier which had been erected and taken down. Dr. Barnardo was in front of him, and several persons were raising her father into the air by means of a crowbar. Witness begged her father to go and get legal advice, and he went away. Her sister then came out, and they were joined by some of their own people. Dr. Barnardo had more than 100 boys in uniform there, sixty dock labourers, and all the boys from his labour house. He ordered them to "clear those people off," but the people did not move. Dr. Barnardo rushed at witness and gave her a blow on the breast, knocking her back into a man's arms. He afterwards pushed her. The boys then swept her away, and she afterwards went into her house. Witness still felt really ill from the effects of the blow, and she had a swelling on her breast. —By Mr. M. Williams: She was now under a medical man, but did not go until three days after. —By Mr. Young: The erection of the gate was commenced on the Monday night by Dr. Barnardo. Her father's men demolished the gates. —Mr. Whitbread stated that he was a live-stock dealer for shipping and also a hay-compressor. He had a place of business at 28, Stepney Causeway, which was a copyhold. He had occupied it thirty-eight or forty years, and the gates that were knocked down were in the same position during the Crimean War. They opened outwards on to the right of way, which led into the Commercial-road. Dr. Barnardo leased one house from witness. He had seen the doctor respecting the sale of the right of way, and also the house, but the negotiations fell through. On Tuesday morning Dr. Barnardo knocked him off the gates. —By Mr. Young: He denied having been in the habit of using profane language in front of the boys, so that Dr. Barnardo had "seen him out." —Mr. Young stated that the doctor claimed the right of way under his conveyance, under which he held the house. —The witness, in answer to Mr. Young, said Dr. Barnardo put up a gate ten years ago. That was to prevent the boys from breaking windows. The roadway for some months was rendered impassable owing to building operations. Defendant had never disputed witness's right of way. —Miss Dora Whitbread deposed that she saw Dr. Barnardo take her sister by the shoulders, as he did witness, and throw her violently away. —Mr. James Whitbread said he saw Dr. Barnardo's men putting large iron gates in position against his father's entrance, to prevent the latter from being opened. —After some further evidence, Mr. M. Williams adjourned the case.

STRIKE OF DOCK LABOURERS.

What threatens to become a general strike of dock labourers in Liverpool has commenced by the refusal of the labourers on Messrs Pappayn's boats to work, in consequence of the employment of grain elevators. The steamer Roumelis, from Alexandria, with grain, is lying unloaded, but the firm are making arrangements to get other hands. There are 20,000 dock labourers out of employment, and additional police are being drafted to the docks.

At an inquest held last week on the body of John North, aged 4 months, who died suddenly on Thursday, the jury asked what it was that the eyes were black. The mother said it resulted from St. Death from convulsions was the verdict.

AN ALLEGED HORSE SWINDLE.

George Smith, 59, described as a cattle dealer, 4, Phoenix Cottage, Pike's Hill, Epsom, was brought up, on a warrant, at Southwark Police Court, charged with being concerned, with three others not in custody, in unlawfully conspiring together, by false and fraudulent pretences, to cheat and defraud Henry John Green of two ponies, of the value of £20 10s.—The witnesses for the prosecution were not all present, but the prosecutor, who was present, had his information read over to him, from which it appeared that he was a corn and seed merchant, carrying on business at Havant, Hants. On the 15th inst. he was at Cox's Repository, in Stamford street, where he had two ponies offered for sale, and he bought them in for £23 11s. A man who gave the name of Jones called his attention to a brown mare standing in an adjoining street, and said he had been offered £30 for it by another man whose name was mentioned as Anderson. The accused came up, said he knew nothing of the other men, but he knew the mare well, and would offer £28 for it. One Jones joined in the conversation, and said he wanted the mare for a gentleman who would give him £50 for it, and said to the prosecutor, "If you will buy the mare, I will give you £25 for it." Believing the man's word, he exchanged his two ponies, worth £20, for the mare, receiving £4 10s. change. The man who promised to buy the mare disappeared. The animal turned out to be of little value, and he had to sell it for £8. He then came to the conclusion that he had been swindled by the three men, who gave themselves out as men of good position.—Detective Ward stated that he hoped to prove that a system of fraud was pursued by some men in the way described.—Mr. Slade said there must be a remand.—Mr. Sydney asked for bail, stating that his client had lived in Epsom for forty years.—Mr. Slade remanded the prisoner, and agreed to accept bail, two sureties in £50.

THE HUSBAND DIDN'T LIKE IT.

Ernest Frederick Cooke, bookmaker, Pantong-street, and Edward Wilson, traveller, Cornwall-road, Bayswater, were charged at the Marlborough-street Police Court with being drunk and fighting in Pantong-street.—Police-constable 63 C said that about a quarter past eleven o'clock at night he was in Pantong-street and saw the prisoners fighting in the midst of a crowd. He requested them to stop, and they refused to do so, and continued fighting until they were taken into custody.—Cooke said that when he arrived home he found Wilson in the passage of his house. He had forced his way in and had insulted his wife. He struck him, and Wilson returned the blow. They had a round two, and the police took them into custody. He thought it very hard that a rater was to be annoyed in that manner. When his wife told him what had happened he naturally felt very indignant.—Wilson denied having been in the passage.—Inspector Wade spoke to the inebriated condition of the prisoners when brought to the station. They had considerable difficulty in getting Cooke to the cells. Cooke told him the story of the passage, and said that Wilson had been taking liberties with his wife.—Cooke: Trying to do so.—The inspector, continuing said that Mrs. Cooke was very much excited when she was in the charge room, and said that her husband was under a misapprehension. He had to ask her to leave.—Mr. Hannay said he would naturally be very indignant at seeing Wilson with his wife, whether he was under a misapprehension or not.—Mrs. Cooke complained of the police pushing her when in the station. She was naturally excited under the circumstances.—Mr. Hannay: She seemed to have said to the inspector that she thought her husband was under a misapprehension.—Mrs. Cooke being called as a witness, said that when she returned home and had opened the door, Wilson came up and pushed into the doorway. She ordered him to leave, when he put his arm round her, and the moment he did so her husband appeared, and there was a disturbance. Her husband was not drunk, but had had a glass or two. He was excited at seeing Wilson there. She did not say, when at the station, that her husband was mistaken.—Mr. Hannay ordered the prisoners to pay 10s. each or be imprisoned for ten days.

LAWFUL USE OF THE REVOLVER.

Arthur Joyce, 28, confectioner, in business at Herbert-road, Shooter's Hill, was charged at Woolwich Police Court with discharging a revolver in the public streets to the common danger.—Inspector Reid said that at two o'clock in the morning the prisoner was given into custody for firing a revolver at a man in Princes-road, Plumstead, and the revolver produced was taken from him. The revolver had five chambers, all of which had recently been discharged. At the station the man Burbridge declined to make the charge, saying that he did not think Joyce intended to hurt him.—Burbridge, who dabbed himself as a boiler-maker, said that he was following the calling of a coter-monger. About one o'clock in the morning the prisoner came up to him in Princes-road and thrust a revolver against his face, whereupon he (Burbridge) struck him a blow with his fist between the eyes, and Joyce fired the revolver at him five times, and ran away along Herbert-road.—Mr. F. Greeney, for the prisoner, said this charge had been concocted out of a harmless and even praiseworthy proceeding. Mr. Joyce was in his house, when he was alarmed by a great disturbance in Princes-road. He went to the back and found the man Burbridge cruelly kicking his wife. He called "Police!" when Burbridge began to assault him also, and in order to attract assistance, he fired his revolver.—Constable Davis, 136 E, said he heard the five shots fired, and on reaching the spot Burbridge said that the revolver had been fired at him, but the prisoner said he had fired in the air to call the police.—Mr. Shell: So I think; he is discharged.—Inspector: What shall I do with the revolver?—Mr. Shell: Give it to its owner. I suppose he has a license?—Inspector: No, sir.—Mr. Shell: Then give him his revolver and inform the revenue officer.

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OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

"It is odd," I remarked to a brother senator the other evening, "that our Irish friends on the other side of the House should be so fond of calling people 'cads.' " "Why odd?" "Well, people who live in glass houses should not, you know, throw stones." "Ah, you're all wrong there. The word 'cad' must mean in the Irish tongue 'gentleman,' inasmuch as none of Mr. Farnell's 'items' ever apply to it themselves."

Seventy-two years ago the Times was thundering—very English emigration to the continent. National bankruptcy was declared to be almost inevitable unless drastic means were adopted to stop this exhausting drain. The whirligig of Time has certainly brought round a very remarkable change. Our present clamour is against the deluge of foreign emigrants which drowns our labour market. But there is a noticeable difference between the two cases. In 1816, it was the emigration of well-to-do English folks that the Times denounced. In 1888, it is the influx of paper aliens that sets John Bull's back up.

There is talk on the Opposition side of the House about raising a subscription to pay any expenses incurred by Mr. Farnell in meeting the Times charges. A ten pound note from each Separatist member would go a long way to discharge the legal bill, but if that did not suffice, recourse might be had to Patrick Ford. It would not be the first time nor the second of Mr. Farnell's being indebted to him for monetary assistance.

As all men know, Sir Wilfrid Lawson is a champion teetotaler, both in theory and practice. None the less it is the fact that he purveys most excellent wine at his dinner parties—such Paradiacal tipples as might tempt an anchorite to get comfortable. A story goes that Sir Wilfrid was lately expostulated with by a temperance saint for thus placing temptation in sinners' ways. "It's all right," gaily replied the baronet. "What is the worth of virtue that cannot withstand temptation?"

All the provincial Separatist papers are in agreement that their cause will suffer serious discredit if the Trafalgar-square disturbances are not permanently discontinued. I am rejoiced that they have awed the gutter print of Northumberland-street will follow suit. It is simply marvellous that any person, however stupid—Separatists are very stupid as a rule—could have ever supposed that the grotesque antics of Messrs. Graham and Conybeare would promote Home Rule. In the House those eccentric members are regarded as well, it might be a breach of privilege to mention the sort of esteem in which they are held.

The failure of Mr. Gladstone's memory is becoming very marked. This does not appear to any sensible extent in the reports of his speeches, because the "gallery," ever kind to old members, makes the necessary emendations. But among the necessities of the situation, the question naturally presents itself as to how long the Opposition can continue to be led by one who cannot carry in his mind the essential points of even a brief debate.

There are two members of the Parliamentary community whom Unionists hold in particular aversion. These are Sir Thomas Grove, who represents South Wilt, and Mr. Hingley, who sits for North Worcestershire. Both got in as Unionists, and both have gone right over to the Separatists, but neither has the common honesty to resign his seat and stand the chances of re-election. Such conduct is simply inexcusable—it amounts to a flagrant breach of contract. No wonder, then, that the Unionist members look askance at the two turncoats and shun their company.

Some people have expressed wonder that Mr. Labouchere should have entered into correspondence with Patrick Egan, the absconded secretary of the defunct Land League. There is nothing odd in that—"birds of a feather," you know. Besides, Mr. Labouchere loves notoriety, and he gains a trifle of that by including among his circle of acquaintances one who lies under suspicion of having taken some part in getting up the Phoenix Park massacre.

Although Mr. Bradlaugh is not quite to my taste, I must confess that I heartily relished the manner in which he sat upon those Radical wire-pullers at Northampton who tried to make him their delegate. They sadly mistook their man. To do him justice, Mr. Bradlaugh has a stiff backbone, and although he knows how to make it pliable on occasion, it is not to be bent by brute force. In this respect, he compares favourably with not a few Gladstonian members who have become mere delegates in all but name.

Boulangism appears to be played out already in France. At all the recent elections matters have gone badly for the founder of that revolutionary creed, who must now regret that he staked his popularity on his prowess as a swordsman. M. Floquet's rapier pricked a bladder, it is clear, as well as slit a throat. I congratulate the French electors on their return to sanity. Gladstonian voters in the Camberne and North-West Lanark Divisions please copy.

WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEE.

Leicester's meeting was generally speaking dull as regards everything but the racing. That the people will not go to the place seems an unfortunate fact beyond the power of the company to alter. They were few and the weather miserable. Business started with the Donington Plate, in which Shrivensham, ridden by W. Nightingall, won easily. Next Pillarist, another second favourite, took the Gopwell Plate, and then came the Zealand Plate for which there were two better favourites than Secusion. Mr. Manton's filly, who was well backed at Kempton for Rokeby's race, got home by a head only from the favourite, Charlie, with Taurus a head behind the second. Mr. W. R. Marshall took the Bradgate Park Plate with Haridan, who ran on to the finish, and beat four more fancied opponents. The Apple was well worth the 400 guineas paid for her after she landed the Birstall Selling Plate by a head from Goldsmith and Blackpool, who ran a dead heat for second place. The day's racing concluded with the All-Aged Plate, in which Misere, the non-favourite, beat Horsehead, her solitary opponent, by a short head.

On Tuesday the odds on Chilton Boy against Velours were only landed after a very hard race. Ice quite easily defeated eight opponents in the Appleby Plate, for which Dog Rose was made a hot favourite, with Hazlewood next in demand.

A capital field started for the Midland Derby, which appeared so open that 5 to 1 was laid on the field to the finish of the betting. For a long way White Flag held good a lead that the others seemed little likely to catch him. However, Armande gradually got up and won a little cleverly from White Flag at the finish. Bow Church was lucky enough to get well placed at the bend, or he might not have landed the Erington Plate. Athlete, spotted as a good thing, cleverly won the Sutton Plate; and Virgin Queen, a dreadful outsider, got home from Worlington by a head only, on whom punters freely laid 15 to 8.

Robert Bruce, on Wednesday, had won the King's Mill Plate a long way from the finish. Surbiton took the Tipton Plate, after a fine race with Castlenock. King Monmouth on Tuesday became a strong favourite for the Leicester Handicap, and won by a hint of staying. Had the course been two hundred yards shorter, Woodland, who with the winner ran right away from the rest, would have beaten Mr.

Lowther's horse. He was not going too gamely, by Osborne, on Mr. Pickersgill's unnamed colt, by Beauclerc, cleverly won the Palham Plate, and then Athlete, about whom the price of 9 to 2 could be had, made short work of his opponents in the Darley Plate. Zent, the worst favourite in the three, stood best in the Queen's Plate, and won from Orie, with Arundel, who was fancied by the stable, last.

Mike Conley, the Ithaca giant, who recently challenged Jem Smith to fight in the United States for £500 or £1,000, offers £200 expenses consideration to Smith if he will make the journey to America. On the other hand, Smith is willing to give £200 to the American to meet him within 500 miles of London.

Sullivan is once more challenging the world. Mitchell or Kilrain preferred. He does not want to fight, but must keep himself before the public.

L. E. Myers has returned to America from Australia, and is challenging all comers at a quarter of half a mile. He was given a benedict at Sydney before he left, which brought in a very handsome sum.

On Monday the professional mile swimming championship was decided at the Wash Harp, Hendon, and very easily won by James Finney, of Oldham, now engaged at Margate. Next to Finney was Sergeant, late of Portsmouth, whose time was 32min. 42sec., to Finney's 30min. 11sec.

Bowlers continue to get the best of batsmen, though in some cases good scores have been made. One of the worst displays seen for a long while was in the game at Sheffield, between Yorkshire and Nottingham. The ex-champion county made only 24 and 58, while Yorkshire all went for 46. This left the latter to make 37 to win, a task they accomplished without losing a wicket.

Derbyshire at Old Trafford were dismissed for a still smaller total. They began fairly with 87, to which the Lancastrians answered with 162. Then Derby went in and out for 170 in their second innings—Briggs had six wickets for 4 runs, and Watson four for 10.

Surrey beat Kent at Beckenham with 142 and 85 to 85 and 53. The best bowlers were Abel, 31 and 10; J. Shuter, 25 and 9; Lohmann, 27 and 5; M. Read, 19 and 12; Henderson, 10 and 18. For Kent C. J. M. Fox put on 27 and 20, and no one else could get out of his teens.

A strong, but not quite so good an eleven as could be wished, was collected for Cambridge Past and Present against the Australians at Leyton. A. J. Steel could not play, and his absence was greatly felt. Cambridge, who went in first were all out for 137, of which A. P. Lucas made 50 quite in his old style, and A. M. Suthery had 24. The Colonials, who lost two wickets for 73 runs on the first evening, carried their total to 319 on Tuesday. This really was too unwell to bat. Bannerman went in first, and carried out his bat for 93. Bonnor made 78, Jarvis 32, and Edwards 36. At the time the Cambridge could show 22 without losing a wicket. Unfortunately Wednesday's weather would not permit a resumption of play, and the game was abandoned as drawn. The Australians left for Huddersfield on Wednesday evening, to be ready for their third match against Yorkshire.

I regret to hear of the death of Mr. T. T. Drake, "Squire Drake," as we used to call him, of Sharncliffe, just by Amersham, Bucks. Mr. Drake was a mighty hunter, both as a follower of other packs, and master of the Biester, &c. He kept a few horses in training for some years, was a member of the Jockey Club, and on the committee of Newmarket rooms, and a great authority on all agricultural matters. He was greatly respected in his own part of the country and wherever known.

The trial heats for Doggett's Coat and Badge were scullied on Wednesday between Hammer-smith and Putney Bridges. As only eight started, and three in each heat were to go for the final, only a couple were knocked out in the preliminary process. The men who row on August 1st are:

(Stations count from Middlesex.)
Station 1.—Alfred Thomas Martin, Greenwich (white).
Station 2.—Charles Richard Harding, Chelsea (yellow).
Station 3.—Wm. Alfred Hall, Wandsworth (pink).
Station 4.—Frederick Bryant, Epsom (blue).
Station 5.—Richard Bunn, Royston (black).
Station 6.—Frederick Wm. Robinson, Putney (red).

Reading Amateur Regatta was quite ruined by the terrible wet boisterous weather. Thames rowed over for the Senior Eights and Fours, and beat London in the Sandeman Cup, also for eights. E. P. Billborough, of the London R.C., won the Junior Sculls; Reading took the Junior Fours, and C. W. Hughes, of the Thames, the Senior Sculls.

OLD IZAAK.

Although in our last week's issue, actuated by a desire to give my readers a useful hint, I wrote of my intention to spend my annual holiday in Ireland, I feel that the length of the journey which it is necessary to make would deter many from taking such a trip, and therefore having regard to the season of the year I will again devote a short space to the consideration of the question which, from correspondence I have received, I know to be uppermost in the minds of many anglers, of where to find a place nearer home at which good fishing can be had.

With regard to Ireland, however, I am convinced that whatever may be the impressions prevailing in the minds of sportsmen as to the treatment with which they are likely to meet at the hands of the Irish peasantry, they will, if at all to their disparagement, be totally eradicated by a visit amongst them. There is, undoubtedly, good pike and perch fishing to be had free, to say nothing of salmon and trout, in the inland waters, far surpassing anything of the kind which is open to the angler in England.

My idea of a holiday as an angler will probably be accepted by my readers. It is, after months of hard work, to undertake the labour of love of putting together rods and tackle, and, throwing dull care to the winds, to go away to some quiet little haven of rest, where, within easy reach of temporary abode, the cost of living at which does not cripple one's resources for twelve months afterwards, good fishing is to be had, and perhaps a specimen fish caught, furnishing a remembrance which will linger long and lighten the cares of many a weary hour.

On the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads these requirements may easily be met with. Only lately, although anglers fishing in the Thames have had very poor sport, and have blamed the state of the weather, a friend of mine having returned from a fishing excursion to the Wensum, has been enjoying some splendid roach fishing, while along the banks of the Thames, especially above Reading, there is many a country village to be found where good quarters may be had, with fishing within easy distance, which will satisfy any lover of the gentle art.

But there is the desirability of a visit to the seashore to be taken into consideration, and in favour of this, the voice of Mr. Angler, and all the little Anglers, will probably be raised in chorus. I have found that sea-fishing is as agreeable and even more exciting than fresh water fishing, and also that the same rules apply almost equally to both, as regards the use of fine tackle. The lines and tackle used by the regular sea fishermen are, as a rule, much coarser than is necessary. A favourite place of mine is to select a place to visit where a river runs in the sea, and then to fish for the bass which follow the spat up to an incoming tide. This I do with a short and stiffish rod and a plain silk pike line, using for bait a strip of mackerel or pilchard on hooks mounted on twisted gut. Sea fishermen using a

rod will succeed when the ordinary land lines altogether fail.

While staying at Bournemouth last year, on looking into the water from the iron platform beneath the pier I noticed the shoals of smelts, and never found any difficulty, when the sea was calm, in taking, in a short time, a dish full of these toothsome fish, baiting with the ordinary bread paste on roach tackle.

In reply to "Tyro" I should advise him to read "A Book on Angling," by Francis Francis. There is good pike, bream, and perch fishing to be had in Dagenham Lake, but my space will not allow of my naming all the baits with which these fish can be caught. However, to give a general idea to a perfect novice, such as "Tyro" describes himself to be, I would recommend for pike using a medium-sized dace on snap tackle; for bream, gentles or worms on roach tackle; and for the large perch which I understand there are in the lake, nothing will probably be found to possess greater powers of attraction than a minnow, or a small gudgeon on a paternoster.

A roach angler's competition is being organised by the Clapton Angling Society, whereby it is proposed that angling clubs shall contribute £2 each, for the purpose of purchasing a challenge cup, which shall be fished for by six selected members of the club so subscribing. I have looked through the rules which will govern the competition and find that they are well and fairly drawn out, but I would suggest to the C.A.S. that if possible the competition should be for the best specimen fish instead of for gross weight. By adopting this course all chance is avoided of degrading the sport, and in my opinion it would be more creditable to have engraved on the cup that it was won by a 2lb. fish than by 50lb. weight made up of fiddlers.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Anglers in the East have to keep their wits about them. How would my esteemed fellow-worker, "Old Izaak," feel, if when he was trying to ensnare the wily trout, a pair of monstrous jaws protruded from the water just in front, and snapped defiance in his face? This startling experience lately befel a Bengali angler, who inconspicuously boated to the nearest house and gave the alarm. The owner at once armed himself with a rifle, and proceeded to the river where he found a monster crocodile floating placidly on the surface close to the shore. A series of well aimed bullets eventually smashed its skull, and the carcass, which measured over seven feet in length, was dragged to land. A crocodile of that size would be an uncommonly ugly customer at close quarters even for a tiger. The latter could do little harm to his armoured antagonist, while on the other hand, if Mr. Crocodile once got grip, he would walk off with his striped foe into the water and quietly drown him.

Toads are wonderfully clever at hiding themselves. We have one, a huge fellow, in our little garden, which we brought up from the country many years ago, but it is very rarely that any one catches a sight of the reclusive. Whether it be that he has learnt the humane ways of the household, or through some other influence, he shows no signs of fear on being taken up and handled by the children. With philosophic dignity, he gazes at them with his beautiful eyes as much as to say, "although you are only poor miserable human beings, I do not object to being stared at."

People who have pet dogs should be very careful both to wash them frequently with carbolic soap and to limit their animal food, now that the weather has become warmer. It is a pitiable thing to see a dog half-maddened by the skin irritation consequent upon fleas and a too heating dietary. The poor creature never knows what it is to sleep comfortably, but passes both its days and nights in misery, longing for the winter. My observations apply more especially to town dogs; in the country they get, as a rule, both exercise and bathing, while they can crop the grasses which nature has kindly provided in every meadow as blood coolers.

I am asked by a correspondent if moles have the power of vision. My answer is that they decidedly have. The eyes can be found carefully hidden beneath the fur and probably are only of use to the animal to warn him when he ascends to the light. For a very long time it was believed that the mole was blind owing to the manner in which his eyes are concealed. But although he has one of his senses diminished in this manner, Talpa Europea possesses another—that of hearing—in an extraordinary degree. The latter sense must prove much more useful to him in his underground domains than the former would, for he is apprised of the approach of his enemies by the sounds of their footsteps along the ground while his eyes would in no way help him to evade them. His fur is beautifully velvety and soft, and it is curious that you never find the slightest particle of dirt upon it as you might have expected from his subterranean habits. This same hair of his also possesses the enviable quality of not being able to be ruffled by brushing in either direction—a property of very evident advantage to one who in his mining operations must often have to back himself through narrow passages. Then look at our friend's forefeet. Are not they most admirably adapted to act as natural shovels? They are worked by extremely powerful muscles or else the mole would never be able to excavate his long tunnels in so short a space of time.

Besides all this Talpa has an extremely ready sense of smell and very sharp teeth. But when Nature lavishes her gifts on any creature, she expects him to work in return for them, and the mole in order to live has to eat an immense quantity of worms every day. So voracious is his appetite that he is known to kill and devour animals of such a comparatively large size as mice.

"Eggoramus" kindly writes to say that a pigeon of his has just laid four eggs at a sitting. Perhaps some other readers have had similar experiences.

A correspondent wishes to know how to teach a jackdaw to talk. Except to the bird the desired word for words, I cannot say. I have heard him say it himself, when he should be rewarded with some delicacy. It is best to do this in the dark or the bird's attention is liable to be distracted. Do not cut his tongue, it will merely cause unnecessary pain. Patience is the great secret. Some birds pick up words and sentences of their own accord and learn more readily than others. Canaries are known sometimes to learn words, but almost invariably from hearing parrots repeat them. With reference to another question of the same correspondent, I may say that a jackdaw, if his wings are clipped, or he is pinioned need not have a cage. Of course he should have some roosting place, where he would be secure from the attacks of cats and other nocturnal prowlers.

"Orgran Blower" asks how to free his house of mice. This is by no means an easy matter. My correspondent does not like using poison as there are children about, and I certainly would not advise him to do so in any case. Let him put chloride of lime about freely. This is known to be very efficient for banishing rats, and probably will prove serviceable against the smaller rodents. The chloride is also very wholesome and sanitary, and no harm can be done by using it.

THE ACTOR.

The audience which witnessed the first performance of "The Union Jack" was, of course, a huge one, and it also contained some interesting people. I noticed in one of the boxes Miss Agnes Hewitt, and in another Mr. Charles Overton, the American actor and theatrical agent. In the stalls were Mr. Burnand, Miss Caroline Hill, Mr. French (the theatrical publisher), and Mr. John Cobbe, who also looks after English novelties for America.

The only leading member of "The Union Jack" cast who was likely to be practically unknown to the Adelphi audience was Miss Olga Nethercliffe—a clever and pretty young lady, whom I remember

seeing at the Grand, Islington, with, I think, Miss Roselle and Mr. Dacre, and who appeared very recently at a Strand matinee. By and bye she goes to the St. James's, and I think she will make her mark.

It is rather curious that Messrs. Pettitt and Grandy should have given to the heroine of "The Union Jack" the name of Ethel Arden. That is the name also of an actress, well known in the country and in London minor theatres, who may some day be called upon somewhere to play the part in question. If so, "Ethel Arden," by Miss Ethel Arden, will look queer on the bills.

While the Adelphi piece was unfolding itself to the public for the first time, Miss Marie de Grey was giving a musical evening in the banquet room at St. James's Hall. I arrived just in time to hear Miss Lucille Saunders and Mr. Howard Paul sing and Miss de Grey recite, and then I had to speed back to the Adelphi. Mr. Paul sang a very old-fashioned comic song, parts only of which were audible where I sat.

I hear that, so far as the St. James's company were concerned, there were no special high jinks behind the scenes on the last night of the season. The managers received visitors from the front, but the rank and file of the corps dramatique were dismissed, so gossip says, without so much as the cracking of a bottle of champagne. All the better.

I find that, during their career at the St. James's, Messrs. Hare and Kendal produced twenty-one pieces, of which five were revivals—"Still Waters Run Deep," "Home," "As You Like It," "Lady Clancarty," and "The Wife's Secret." Of the remaining sixteen only six, I believe, were of purely English origin. "Monsieur le Duc" (Val Prinsop) may have been wholly original, but I suspect it had a French prototype, and, if so, the following were Messrs. Hare and Kendal's drafts on English invention:—"The Falcon" (Tennyson), "Old Cronies" (Thyre Smith), "William and Susan" (Wills), "The Money Spinner" (The Squire), and "The Hobby Horse" (all by Pinero).

"Young Folks' Ways" was American (Mrs. Burnett and Mr. W. Gillette). From the French came "Good Fortune" (Coghlan), "Coralie" (Godfrey), "The Cape Mail" (Scott), "Impulse" (Stephenson), "The Ironmaster" (Pinero), "My Fair" (Pinero), "Antoinette Rigault" (Warren), and "The Wife's Sacrifice" (Grundy and Edwards)—eight in all, and nine with "Monsieur le Duc," English, the sixth which were unmistakably English.

On Monday evening I went down to Greenwich, and heard and saw "Geraldine," the comic opera by Messrs. Edgar Wyatt and Alf. R. Watson. I found the company above the average. It contained three ex-members of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's country companies—Miss Ethel Pierson, Miss Madge Stavart, and Mr. Allen Morris; also those two clever comedians, Mr. J. T. Macmillan and Mr. Fawcett Lomax. Miss Kate Neverist, who is also of the troupe, has a very good contralto, but is apparently forcing her lower register at the expense of the middle and upper. Mr. Watson's music is always melodious.

That was indeed a monster programme which Messrs. Stephens and Solomon put before their patrons at the Prince's Hall on Wednesday night. It looked in at 10 p.m., and left at 12.30, and during the interval I heard, Miss Annie, Miss Minnie Bell, Miss Elsie Cameron, Miss Marie de Grey, Miss Kate Everleigh, Miss Jennie Lee, Miss C. Reesochewitz (Phobus, what a name!), Miss Romola Tynte, Mr. L. Brough, Mr. H. Bracy, Mr. H. Bagge, Mr. C. Collette, Mr. F. de Lara, Mr. E. J. Lonnem, Mr. R. Martin, Mr. W. Pallant, Mr. L. Stormont, Mr. T. Squire, Mr. G. Thorne, and Mr. Van Biene, besides seeing Miss Phillis Broughton dance, and Mr. Bertram and Miss Patrice conjure. I believe the entertainment closed shortly after 1 left.

Miss Elsie Cameron and Mr. George Thorne belong to Mr. D'Oyly Carte's provincial companies, and the lady has a very agreeable voice and style. Mr. Thorne has plenty of the latter, but little of the former. He is one of the Thorne family. Where Miss Reesochewitz comes from I don't know; I should imagine from Germany. Her vocal organ is to me ear-piercing for my taste.

When Miss Sophie Eyre produces Mr. John Coleman's version of "Mr. Barnes of New York" ("Marita") at the Gaiety, she will do so with an attractive cast. Among the gentlemen will be Messrs. F. Terry, E. D. Ward, and H. Waring; and among the ladies, Miss Carlotta Leclercq, Miss Lucy Buckstone, and Miss Edith Leal. Mr. Julian Cross plays the part corresponding to that which he had at the Olympia. I believe there was at one time a possibility that Mrs. Bernard Beere would produce Mr. Coleman's adaptation.

JACK ALLROUND.

"I have some marble ornaments, and in house moving these have become unjoined. They have been evidently stuck together with plaster of Paris, or something like it. Can you tell me whether plaster of Paris is used for such things, and if not what is?" It is used in various combinations for the purpose of joining marble. If "W. H. C." will take one part of pure wax to four parts plaster of Paris and eight parts resin, and melt or mix the three together by fusion, an admirable cement will be the result. But in using this the pieces of marble to be joined must be made hot. This is not always easy to accomplish. A very good marble cement can be made by adding to one part of dry freshly-burned, finely-powdered lime, twenty parts of litharge, mixing the two into a putty with linseed oil, the following is still better—Take one part of inferior earth, six parts of fine sand, and three parts of slaked lime, and twelve parts Portland cement, mix these into a thick paste with salicate of soda, and apply at once. In twenty-four hours the cement will be as hard, if not harder, than the marble itself. The marble will not need to be made hot in either of the two last recipes.

In these days of "lady helps" it is by no means unusual to get such a query as "A Particular One" puts to me. She says, "Kindly give me a recipe for softening the hands that get hardened with house-work. I have tried glycerine and lime juice but it only seems to answer until it is washed off." Your object, I take it, is not so much to soften as to preserve the lady-like appearance of your hands as much as possible, notwithstanding that they have to do some housework. A great deal can be done in this direction by a little attention. Keep your hands out of water when you can; nothing destroys them more than constantly washing them, except, perhaps, the habit of only half drying them when they are washed. Of course you must keep your hands clean; therefore, when you are blackening the grates, sweeping the kitchen flues, cleaning the knives, or engaged in other such-like dirty, yet decidedly hand-trying occupations, never scruple to pull on your household gloves. After scrubbing the boards, scouring the door steps, washing up the plates and dishes or other hand-wetting occupation, never omit a final rinse in clean water, and a thorough drying of your hands when you are done. Do not trust too much to cosmetics, but with such simple rules as I have given, and oatmeal in water, or glycerine and lime juice if you prefer it, or other emollient of the sort occasionally at night, you can greatly preserve the natural beauty of your hands.

"Mrs. V." kindly sends me some hints valuable just now to those, as she says, "thrifty housewives who like to see a shelf full of fruits and vegetables laid by for winter use." My correspondent recommends screw-top glass bottles or jars as presenting a vast improvement on the old-fashioned time and labour, while the speeding manipulation they allow of at the time of filling secures a more entire exclusion of air, which is the essential object sought. To guarantee success

in this fruit canning process, as she calls it, she directs the glass bottles to be gradually heated to soften them, and when at a high temperature and the fruit also at a high temperature (sufficient to cook it) the latter should be poured in and the screw top immediately fastened as tight as possible. In twenty-four hours all should be looked over, and wherever air bubbles appear the fruit must be scalded again. When bottling, care must be taken that the bottle or jar is absolutely full, "even a little boiling water should be added" in preference to leaving any vacuum in the bottle or jar.

Apparently the trade of dyer is supposed to be the easiest of all trades. I am frequently asked how to make "the best dyes" of various shades and colours. As I wish to guard my correspondents from disappointment, I am wary of encouraging them to attempt what is altogether beyond the appliances they are likely to have at hand. In reply to J. F. (Brighton) and to several others, I can only say the questions they have put to me on this subject would require a portly volume to answer and explain, while the inquirers would need a considerable acquaintance with chemistry to apply the directions given. No popular work on dyeing, so far as I know, has been written for amateurs. "A Manual of Dyeing," by James Napier, has been published by Griffin and Co. It costs about a guinea. The colours used for woollen goods and feathers are the same. If satisfied to limit your efforts to what Judson and the other cheap made up dyes can do you will find directions given with the various colour preparations sold.

"Could you tell me of anything that would cure black specks on the face? I have them very thick," writes "Milly H." The very common and mildest form of acne, displaying black raised spots, "flesh worms," as they are often called, comes of an overplus of natural pomade and is best treated by squeezing out with your finger each of the little black spots. Being disfiguring, one is anxious to be rid of them, but the operation is troublesome and causes some little pain. When they are squeezed out, it would be advisable to apply some astringent lotion, such as toilet vinegar, or a strong solution of alum, or a little eau-de-Cologne. If you have so many that the above squeezing process would be impracticable, you might succeed by frequent washing with hot water, using a very mild soap, and then rubbing the face with a soft but rough towel; or you might get rid of them by rubbing the face with a fine smooth piece of pumice stone. Any of these modes of treatment may probably give rise to a temporary irritation or roughness of skin. To cool this use oatmeal and water, or, if you prefer it, occasionally apply a little glycerine.

GENERAL CHATTER.

London needs one more "inspector"—an official who would exercise some control over the goods displayed in shop windows. Horrid things are often exhibited, and I know of one emporium where an enterprising retailer tries to attract custom by a coloured model of a skinned man. Such articles as skulls are quite common, while here and there one meets with a complete skeleton. I suppose from the increasing frequency of these disgusting exhibitions that they are found to serve their purpose, but, for my own part, I would not enter any shop decorated with the remains of defunct humanity.

An Indian gentleman, new to London, left a card at Buckingham Palace for the Queen, having been told that this was the correct thing. He is still anxiously expecting an invitation to dine with her Majesty.

A little west of Acton there is a broad, steep, and tolerably high acclivity, called Hanger Hill. Except towards the summit, there are no houses on it, either east or west, while the ground in both directions seems admirably suited for rifle ranges. The National Rifle Association might have a look at the place, with a view to holding their annual meetings there for the future. The hill is sufficiently high and broad to prevent stray bullets passing beyond.

"My husband has left me and the little ones," whined a miserable-looking woman as I was passing up Southampton-street the other evening. She had two ragged children with her, and the three were selling rosebuds. Having given the poor creature a trifle, I passed on, and towards the top of the street I saw upon an equally forlorn-looking man also selling rosebuds, and, also with a bit of help, he ejaculated; "my misus has bolted and left me with the kids." Next morning I had to pass through the skirts of Covent Garden Market at a rather early hour. What was my surprise to see that very man, and those very children taking their breakfast at a coffee stall, while they critically examined some bunches of rosebuds which they had evidently just purchased. I did not give them a trifle this time.

It made me laugh, it did, to see the consternation of a daintily-dressed dandy who had inadvertently thrust the end of his umbrella into the iron cover of a coal scuttle. Bode the cover away a wily carter, and there he stood, first looking at it, then at the open scuttle, as if puzzled how to get the two together. And his embarrassment was not diminished by a naughty little boy, who began shouting "Stop thief!" making believe that he had caught the dandy in the act of making off with the cover.

It does not do to be too classical in your allusions when conversing with the uneducated. A young curate lately sought to propitiate a blacksmith whom he was seeking to bring into the fold by calling him a "perfect Titan." "A tight 'un, be I? I'll teach you to call people names," replied the son of Vulcan, and with that he went for the curate like a steam elephant. I have heard that among a certain class of visitors to the Italian Exhibition there is great disappointment because the Emperor Titus does not simulate intoxication. "Not art as tight as us would be if we had the same chance," said one disgusted onlooker.

The speed with which buildings are rising on both sides of Shaftesbury Avenue shows what a good site it is considered to be. Many of the edifices have, too, quite handsome elevations, so that the thoroughfare when finished promises to prove an ornament to the West-end. What between this street and Charing Cross-road, poor Seven Dials is fairly stared out of countenance, and made to feel ashamed of its unsightly looks. Even the bird and reptile shops are compelled to break up a bit, nor would it surprise me to see them burst out into plate-glass and gilding. I hope that this metamorphosis will not involve an advance in prices. The Dials is still by far the cheapest market for pets, whether feathered or scaly.

The authorities at the West London Hospital had better see to it that their annual almshouse collection procession is not turned to base political purposes. Last Sunday it undoubtedly had that character, the cortege winding up with the ugly banner of a Socialist club. Heretofore, I have always put a trifle into the collecting-box. But on this occasion I replaced the money in my pocket, fearing that some portion might possibly be given to the Socialist fingers. Nor was I the only person who did this; among my neighbours, Liberal as well as Conservative, there was a general feeling of resentment at the prostitution of a noble cause to ignoble purposes.

British tobacco has had its doom pronounced; the jury of experts to whom the samples of the leading experimentalists were submitted delivered judgment dead against the whole lot. Precisely my own opinion; I entirely agree with the judges that even if the stuff were allowed to be sold duty free, it would not find purchasers. One Irish guinea disappears, therefore; it can no longer be pretended that England prevents, by her fiscal system, the cultivation of a crop in its own soil, which would enrich her subjects beyond the dreams of avarice. British tobacco cannot be grown either to pay or to smoke.

LAST WEEK'S
LAW AND POLICE.

Bow-street.

THE TRAFALGAR-SQUARE CASE.—Mr. Poland attended before Mr. Justice at Bow-street, on the 27th inst., on the application of the police against individuals for a nuisance, &c. The police in Trafalgar-square on the 27th inst. had only received intimation of an application the previous day, a quarter of an hour before he came to the court. Mr. Dillon Lewis said he simply asked that Mr. Vaughan should state a case on points of law in connection with Antonio Borgia's case, and the suggestion was made that the present cases should stand over until Mr. Vaughan had given his decision. If the present cases were to go on he had a number of charges to make against the police. He was surprised that Mr. Poland, in the face of what had occurred in the House of Commons, and the statement made by Mr. C. Graham at which the Home Secretary expressed satisfaction, should have attended. Mr. Bridge remarked that it had been said, supposing these cases were adjourned, there would be no further meetings in Trafalgar-square. Mr. Lewis: I said if a case is to be stated which would fairly raise for the decision of the Queen's Bench Division the question at issue between the public and the authorities, at that moment these meetings, which are held as a protest—should cease. Mr. Bridge said if any case could be stated it would be done. These meetings must be stopped, and should be stopped in the meantime. After some further remarks, it was arranged that all cases should be held over until a day was fixed that would be most convenient to both parties.

Marlborough-street.

HOUSEHOLDERS LOOK OUT.—Henry Walter Scriven, Argyle-place, and Henry Cooper, White Lion-street, Islington, little boys of ten, were charged with begging from house to house in Tottenham Court-road. When taken into custody they were found to be in a filthy state, so much so that they had to be taken to a workhouse to be cleaned. Scriven, on Monday, said that he had not seen his child since. The other boy, according to a statement made by his father, had been away for two or three weeks. He was continually running away for many days at a time and causing him much trouble. Mr. Marlow, the assistant gaoler, asked the boy where he had been sleeping, he said in a cellar, amongst the baskets, at a green-grocer's in the Caledonian-road. They were remanded for a week.

ALLEGED ROBBERY AT A CLUB.—Harry Etherington, a commissionaire, was charged with stealing £2 and a number of cigars, the property of Mr. G. Stewart Smith, secretary to the Badminton Club, Piccadilly. The prisoner had been employed for a month as night porter. A sum of £2 was given to him to be used as change, should the members require any, and cigars to the value of £1 5s. 6d. for sale. On the 14th inst. the prisoner became intoxicated, and consequently was unfit for duty. He was relieved at his post, when he pocketed the remaining cigars and walked away. No account of the money was afterwards given, and when arrested he said it was not a theft but a breach of trust. Some of the money he had expended in stamps, other portions were owing to him for cigars, which some of the gentlemen here on credit, and as for the remainder, as there being not more than half a dozen, it was not likely he was going to leave them to the "tender mercies" of his successor. When he found he was either the money or the cigars. When he found that he was deficient, he thought the amount would be made up by the commissionaires at the barracks, and that was the reason he did not return. Mr. Spratt said that he did not wish to press the charge. Mr. Newton told the accused he had gone as near as he could to the commissionaire of a felony, and he should advise him to take care how he conducted himself in the future. He was discharged.

Marylebone.

A NUISANCE.—A resident in the parish of St. Pancras applied to Mr. Cooke for his advice as regards a nuisance which he said was almost unbearable to himself and his neighbours. Near to his house was a large heap of ballast, house refuse, and street sweepings, which were being burnt, and the stench from the same, which he described as being very offensive. Mr. Cooke suggested that the applicant should go to see the vestry clerk. The applicant, however, said he and fifty or sixty of his neighbours had petitioned the vestry some time ago, but to no effect. It was not likely anything would be done by the parish officials, for how could the medical officer of health take proceedings against a vestryman, who was, in fact, his master? Mr. Cooke remarked that it was a pity the vestry could not see its way to take proceedings in order to protect a parishioner. The applicant said it was a fact that it had not. Twelve months ago he was able to stop a similar nuisance through the influence of the ground landlord, but now the ground was let to a vestryman of the parish, and all applicant's efforts had failed. Mr. Cooke told the applicant to go to the vestry and say that if they did not take steps in the matter he (the magistrate) should grant process to the parishioners.

Clerkenwell.

ROBBING CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.—James Cronin, Charles Evans, and William Kelley, described as errand boys of 15 years of age, were charged with having been concerned together in stealing a quantity of lead, the property of the trustees of Christ's Hospital. The lead in question formed part of the roofs of some houses in Palmer's-place, Holloway, the houses being the property of the trustees for the time being of Christ's Hospital. The agent for the property said that the houses had been empty for a long time, being about to be demolished. Tons of lead had been stripped from the roofs, and many of the fittings of the houses carried off by bands of boys who broke in at the windows and backs of the houses. In the instance the prisoners were seen on the roofs of some of the houses by police-constables, and when the agent was called he arrived at the houses in time to meet the prisoners descending the stairs carrying lead rolled up. The value of that taken from them was put at 24s. The prisoners admitted the facts, but said that other boys had taken some. Mr. Barstow sentenced each to ten days' hard labour.

Thames.

THE REVOLVER NUISANCE.—John Cairns, aged 36, was charged with displaying a revolver in the public streets. Charles Bassett, manager at the Jolly Sailors, Cable-street, said that at a quarter past twelve o'clock that morning he was talking to a neighbour outside his house, when he heard a report of firearms. On going to the spot, he saw the prisoner with a revolver, and took it away from him. In answer to Mr. Saunders, the witness said the prisoner was very excited, and the pistol was loaded in four chambers. John Whaley, inspector of the H Division, said at twenty minutes past twelve he was passing along Cable-street, when he heard a report of firearms, and from what he heard he believed the Jolly Sailors, and asked prisoner for the revolver, which he declined to give up. His arms were held and he was taken from him. He found that the bullet had passed through the counter and entered a barrel in the bar. John Jennings said he was in the bar of the Jolly Sailors, when the prisoner showed the revolver to him, and he believed it went off accidentally. The prisoner now said he was showing the pistol to the last witness, and it went off accidentally. Mr. Lushington bound the prisoner over in the sum of £10 to keep the peace for six months.

HIS DIDN'T PART.—Frederick Stacey, a well-dressed young man, was charged on remand with attempting to fraudulently obtain £5 from David Moir, of Westbourne Grove-terrace, Bayswater. About a fortnight ago the prosecutor wrote to John Clinkwell, an agent for the Aberdeen Steam Wharf, Emmett-street, Limehouse, engaging four second-class berths, the fares amounting to £5, and he received a letter with an envelope, the

latter bearing the agent's name and address. He took the precaution to look in the directory to see who lived at 21, Burdett-road, from whence the envelope was addressed, and finding it was kept by a news-vendor he did not part with his money. The agent was called to prove that he had nothing whatever to do with the company, and he knew nothing of the address in Burdett-road. On Friday afternoon, the 14th, Hubert Duck, a plain-clothes sergeant, saw the prisoner enter and leave 21, Burdett-road, break open an envelope, and take out contents, and tear the envelope up. Duck took him into custody, and in reply to the charge, he said a man gave him half-a-crown to go and fetch the letter, while he was in the Bad Lion, Tottenham Court-road, but he did not know him or where he lived. Mr. Saunders committed the prisoner for trial.

Worship-street.

NOR A NICE CASE.—Annie Lazarus, 25, described as married, well-dressed, was charged with picking pockets in High-street, Shoreditch, on Friday evening, and with the unlawful possession of two purses and a watch and chain. Police-constables 411 G and 37 G gave evidence showing that from about seven o'clock till half-past they watched the prisoner, whose movements had aroused suspicion. She went into various shops and tried the dress pockets of no less than seven ladies. The officers were in plain clothes, and 411 G said that at last he distinctly saw the prisoner's hand in a lady's pocket, and he took her into custody, but the lady said she had not lost anything, and would not charge her. At the police-station the prisoner was found in possession of two purses and about 12s. in silver, besides a gold chain and watch. After being put into a cell she became ill, and had to be removed to the workhouse infirmary. In court she complained of ill-health, and was evidently unfit to be tried. She denied the charge, and her husband from the back of the court addressed the magistrate, saying that the money found on the prisoner had been given her to buy some things, and that the watch and chain was his and she was going to pawn it. The police evidence was very clear, but the officers admitted that their attention had been called to the prisoner by a man who sometimes gave them information. Mr. Bushby wished to hear that witness, and a youth, who said he did not wish to give his name and address, entered the box. Asked why he did not wish to give his name and address, he said he had been threatened for giving evidence for the police on a previous occasion. His evidence as to the prisoner was as clear as that of the constables, and he said he had watched her before they did. Mr. Bushby cross-examined the witness, and inquired, and said that if any person would come forward to claim the purses or other property (which remains in possession of the police at Hoxton station), it would materially strengthen the case.

Hammersmith.

AN APPLICATION.—An application was made on behalf of a wife and her child for a maintenance summons. Mr. Curtis Bennett said he would hear the wife, but he had nothing to with the child. The wife said she was married in 1884, and her husband had left her two years afterwards. They separated by mutual consent. The solicitor, who accompanied the wife, said the husband had nothing to keep her with. Mr. Curtis Bennett said the husband ran away, and his wife went to her friends. He inquired whether the husband had refused to support his wife? The applicant said she had not asked him. The Magistrate: You must. The solicitor said he had often applied to the husband for maintenance for his wife. Mr. Curtis Bennett said a husband was not bound to support his wife unless he refused to live with her. He advised her to send a registered letter to her husband offering to resume cohabitation, and to keep a copy of it. The applicant left the Court on the understanding that she would adopt that course.

Westminster.

SHE WOULD HAVE HIS "STRIPES."—A well-dressed female, whose hair was peculiarly plaited over the upper part of her forehead, and who, refusing her name and address, was brought before Mr. Partridge described as "a woman from No. 3 cell," was charged with being drunk and riotous, and assaulting the police. The prisoner laughed when she was placed in front of the dock, and pointing to the constable in the witness-box, who was not wearing his armband, said: I beg your pardon. He has not got "them" all on. He is short of his stripes (laughter). Mr. Partridge (chief clerk): Never mind that. What is your name? Prisoner: I don't know. I refuse to tell. The clerk: Which is it? You don't know or you won't say? Prisoner: I have answered you once. That is quite sufficient. You ought to take a lady's answer. But I don't beg your pardon. That policeman has not got his stripes on. (Laughter.) The Clerk: Very well; you refuse to give your address. Prisoner (surveying herself, and holding up her skirts): Well, my dress, I must confess, is rather dirty just now. (Laughter.) It's not a nice place for a good dress, is it? The Clerk: No, no; I did not ask about your dress. I remarked that you would not say where you lived. Prisoner: At this present moment my address is the Westminster Police Court. (Renewed laughter.) Mr. Partridge (to the magistrate): The police know nothing about her or her friends. She won't give any information. (To the prisoner): You were locked up, I see, last night. (To the clerk): Now where did you sleep the night before last? Prisoner: Why, in a very comfortable bed to be sure. I had a much better night than last night—which was in the cell. (Great laughter.) I can't tell you anything this morning. I feel so awfully queer. My nerves are so upset. Mr. Partridge: You say you are living here. You don't want to go back to the cells? Prisoner: I would prefer staying here. You all look so nice and comfortable. (Laughter.) The constable Vincent, 371 B, was about to give evidence when the prisoner burst out laughing, and exclaimed: I won't stand up unless he puts his stripes on. He is not on duty now. (Laughter.) Before the officials could prevent her, she slid down in front of the dock on to the floor of the court, and was only induced to resume a standing position by the constable putting on his armband, which he did at the request of the clerk, with much deliberation, and to the no small amusement of every one in court. He then gave evidence that on Friday forenoon he was called to the Star and Garter public-house in the Queen's-road, Chelsea, to eject the prisoner, whose she had behaved in a very singular way. She threw herself on the ground, and had to be carried away on an ambulance. Another constable assisted witness, and she bit a piece of the cloth off of his tunic and swallowed it. Mr. Partridge: She must be a person of unsound mind. Witness: I did not think so yesterday, sir. The prisoner, during this colloquy, with a good-humoured but rather vacant expression on her face, showed signs of "subsiding" in the manner she had done earlier in the proceedings, and being held upon one side by the assistant-gaoler and on the other by a warrant officer, volunteered the information that she rather liked it, an announcement that occasioned more laughter. Burchell, the gaoler, said she had talked in a very peculiar way since she had been in his custody, and although she would answer when she liked, he thought she must be of unsound mind. Mr. Partridge: Send her to the workhouse as a lunatic. She smilingly bowed to his worship and the clerk, and was then removed.

Greenwich.

ASSAULT ON A SCHOOLMISTRESS.—Mrs. Bassett, of 1, Idenden-terrace, Greenwich Marshes, was summoned for assaulting Mary Jane Ballantine, head mistress of the St. Andrew's School, Greenwich. The evidence showed that the complainant had refused the defendant's child Lucy admission

to the school pending an apology from her sister for having taken Lucy out of the school without her permission. The defendant thereupon went to the school, used very bad language, and ultimately caught hold of the mistress by the arms and shook her. The defendant complained that the teachers in the school chastised the children severely. She went to remonstrate with the head mistress, and when she saw that her child Lucy was being pulled she said, "If you push and shake her I'll shake you." One of her children had been beaten across the head with a cane. Complainant said she was the only teacher who used the cane, and when she did so she struck the child's hand. Mr. Marsham did not think there was anything against the complainant in respect to her treatment of the children. He bound the defendant over to keep the peace.

Wandsworth.

CHARGE AGAINST A VOLUNTEER.—George Morgan, a private in the 4th West Surrey Volunteers, was brought up on remand, charged with attempting to pick pockets at Wimbledon Camp on the occasion of the winning of the Queen's Prize. The prisoner was seen in the private camp of the Queen's Westminister Volunteers. While they were celebrating the victory of Private Fulton, the prisoner, who was in uniform, put his hand in the trousers pocket of Mr. Edgar Henry Bellerby, a member of the Queen's Rifles. It was also alleged that he tried the pockets of other volunteers. Police-constable 24 OK now gave evidence that he had made inquiries and found the prisoner to be a respectable man with substantial means at the bank. His father had been connected with the corps for twenty years, and was assistant regimental instructor. In answer to Mr. John Haynes, who defended the constable, added that the camp was crowded with people, and there was plenty of champagne and other liquors about. Mr. Bellerby was recalled, and said the prisoner had his hand in his pocket, but whether he had any felonious intention he could not say. Mr. John Haynes was addressing the court when Mr. Plowden interposed. He said the prisoner was satisfied that the prisoner had no felonious intention, but placing his hands in people's pockets was a practice which should be checked. He allowed the prisoner to be discharged on his father entering into recognisances to bring him up for judgment when called upon.

ARREST ON A WARRANT.—Joseph Walton, who was described as a carman, was charged on a warrant with committing a violent assault upon Warder Skipper, of Wandsworth Gaol. Mr. W. M. French appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions. He said the prisoner was liberated from Wandsworth Gaol on Friday, having undergone a term of one month's imprisonment for stealing a loaf of bread. On the 23rd June, the day of his admission, he was taken into the cell, and Warder Skipper supplied him with his supper. Without any warning of any sort, the prisoner went behind the warder, seized him by the legs, and lifting him off his feet, dashed him with considerable force against the wall, inflicting a wound above the left eye and exposing the bone. The warder was at present unable to attend the court in consequence of his injuries. This extraordinary conduct could not be accounted for, and it was first thought that the prisoner was not answerable for his actions, but a medical examination proved this impression to be inaccurate. The clerk then read the sworn information of Mr. James Bird, the principal warder of the prison. It was to the effect that he received a party of prisoners, including Joseph Walton. He answered his name quietly, and while he (Mr. Bird) was writing the names, he saw a noise, and found Skipper on the ground bleeding. The information also described what actually took place. Mr. Plowden remanded the prisoner for the attendance of the warder.

Dalston.

A VENTRILOQUIST AND HIS WIFE.—Francis Gordon Campbell Hunter, 25, describing himself as a professional ventriloquist, of Acton-road, Westbourne Park, was brought before Mr. Brose, on a warrant charged with threatening his wife, Elizabeth Abigail Hunter, whereby she apprehends she goes in danger of her life. From the evidence Mr. Hunter and other witnesses, it was brought up on a warrant and charged at this court with threatening his wife by holding a razor over her. He was then ordered to find one surety to keep the peace, and after being in gaol for some days his brother came forward and stood as bail for him. On this the prisoner was released, but on the same day he went to the residence of his wife's father—an ex-police-inspector, residing at Leyton, in company of a police-constable, and told the officer to take the father and mother into custody for stealing his goods. Mr. Bugby (the father) declined to go to the police-station, and the couple went away, but subsequently the prisoner returned with two constables, and then Mr. Bugby barricaded the door and declined to come out. The incident ended with that, but on the 23rd of June the prisoner again called at the house of Leyton, and rang the bell from nine o'clock till eleven, causing a great disturbance. On the 19th inst. the prisoner went to the Hague-street Board School, Bethnal Green (where Mrs. Hunter is employed as a teacher), and asked to see her. Miss Flaxman, another teacher, told him that he could not see her, and thereupon the prisoner became very excited and flourished a large stick he carried in a menacing manner. He said he would see his wife, and that he would do for her. He then went to the school gate and said he would wait until his wife came in. He was removed by Mr. Tomlinson, the head master, and he then went quietly away. Mrs. Hunter said that she was really afraid of the prisoner's violence, and her father had to take her to and fetch her from school morning and night. The prisoner, in defence, said that he would have gone to America after being bound over, but his wife and her father had taken away his furniture, and he was without funds. He had, he said, bought a deal of the furniture and pictures while employed at the American Exhibition at £10 a week. Mr. Brose said the prisoner had certainly broken the peace, and he would now have to find two sureties in £50 each to keep the peace for six months, or go to gaol for one month.

Stratford.

ALLEGED WHOLESALE ROBBERIES FROM CHILDREN.—Margaret Gray, 17, Margaret Gray, 44, and Anna Gray, 22, all living at 8a, Fifth-avenue, Manor Park, were brought up in custody, charged with being concerned together in stealing various articles of children's clothing and table linen during the months of May, June, and July. At the opening of the case it was stated by Inspector Moss that there were over twenty separate cases of theft of clothing against the prisoners, and the bench decided to go into a few only of these. The evidence showed that one of the prisoners was stopped by the police when carrying a large bundle of clean linen, which the prisoner said she was carrying for another woman. On being asked where she got the linen from, she pointed to some houses, but said she did not remember which. On the constable taking her to one of the houses, the officer found the linen had been stolen from the kitchen table. On searching the house where the prisoner lived, no less than fifty-eight pawn-tickets were found, relating to articles of clothing and table linen, which had been pawned. Some of the clothing to which the tickets referred had even been taken from children's backs while they were proceeding to school. In one instance a child, three years old, was found naked in an empty house, and some of the pawn-tickets related to the child's clothing. There were other similar cases. It was also stated that Margaret, junior, was seen to take a pair of boots from a little boy's feet. The bench committed Margaret, junior, for trial, she admitting that she stole the whole of the things. The other prisoners were discharged.

ALLEGED ROBBERY AND ASSAULT.—Joseph Perkins, a bricklayer, living in the Leyton-road, was brought up in custody charged with stealing a purse and money, the property of Esther Clere,

a married woman, living at 35, Westdown-road, Leyton. A prosecutrix deposed that about six weeks ago she was, in the evening, walking along the Westdown-road with her husband, an elderly man, when she was accosted by the prisoner, who asked her to direct him to a certain road he named. At the time witness had just come out of a Jeweller's shop, and had a watch and chain in one hand and her purse, containing 10s., in the other. Whilst directing the prisoner he gradually neared up to her, seized her left wrist, and then took the purse out of her hand. He then swung himself round and knocked her husband down, after which he ran away. On Thursday night she saw the prisoner outside the King Harry public-house, and she gave information to the police. On Friday night prisoner was arrested near the same spot. A coffee-house keeper here rose in court and said he was formerly an officer in the police force and knew the accused well, as also the Clere's, who were tenants of his. If a remand were granted he could throw a different light on the whole matter. As for the prisoner being the man who committed the robbery, a great mistake had been made, inasmuch as he was ill in bed at the time of the occurrence. The bench remanded the accused for a week, bail being allowed.

INQUESTS.

SHOCKING SUICIDE AT POPLAR STATION.—Mr. Wynne E. Baxter held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Elizabeth Selling, a married woman, aged 34, lately living at 25, Market-street, Poplar, William Selling, the husband, stated that on Wednesday morning he left his wife in bed when he went to work. On returning at ten o'clock in the evening he was informed that she had just come out. The next he heard was that she had jumped in front of a train, and was then lying in Poplar Hospital. He went to see her; she was conscious but made no statement. Arthur Brandfield, a porter in the employ of the North London Railway Company, and stationed at Poplar, deposed that on Wednesday night, at about five minutes to eleven, he saw the deceased standing on the down platform. As a train from Broad-street entered the station she walked forward to the edge of the platform, and, giving a loud shriek, threw herself on the rails. The train was going slowly, but before it could be stopped the engine and five carriages had passed over her. Several persons ran to her assistance, and she was dragged from beneath, but it was then found that her legs had been cut clean off. Witness said he saw the whole occurrence, and it was a deliberate act. Sarah Selling, a widow of 2, Annabel-street, Poplar, deposed that the deceased was a friend of hers. They were often together. On Tuesday night deceased said to her, "I am sick and tired of this life." She had said it often before because she lived unhappily with her husband. The witness was questioned as to the mode of life the deceased led, but refused to say. The husband was recalled, and in reply to the coroner, said that he had heard that his wife associated with other men, but he had never caught her in the act. When he accused her of it she denied it and they quarrelled. He could not say whether it was true or not, but he knew that she often went out late at night. For some days previous to her death she had not mentioned the matter, and they had not quarrelled. He had been out of work for a long time, but being up, said that no doubt the friends were trying to screen the good name of the deceased, and therefore the whole facts as to her life had not been made known. There seemed quite sufficient, however, to warrant them in saying that at the time she committed the rash act her reason was impaired. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while in a state of temporary insanity.

A CHILD POISONED BY MISTAKE.—Mr. George Percival Wyatt held an inquest at St. Thomas's Hospital on the body of Alice O'Gorman, aged 3 years, the daughter of a labourer, residing at 24, Nelson-row, High-street, Clapham, who died from the effects of drinking a quantity of sulphuric acid, better known as oil of vitriol. It appeared from the evidence that the father of the deceased kept a bottle containing sulphuric acid, which he used for the purposes of a galvanic battery, on a shelf. In the absence of the mother the deceased got on a chair, and, supposing the bottle containing poison to contain water only, she placed it to her lips with the result that she became very ill. She was removed to the above hospital, where she eventually died from shock, consequent upon taking the poison. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, adding that, as there had already been so many cases where children had died under similar circumstances, they hoped more caution would be observed in future.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT NEW CROSS.—Mr. Langham held an inquest at Guy's Hospital, touching the death of James Allen, 35 years, lately residing at No. 3, Wilford House, Pottery-street, Bermondsey near New Cross, who was killed by being run over by a train at New Cross Station on the South-Eastern Railway. From the evidence of several witnesses it appeared that on Tuesday, the 17th inst., the deceased was with his wife on the station. They were having an altercation. Isaac Wood, a night porter, warned the deceased from the edge of the platform, but he did not take any notice. Just as the train arrived, deceased fell on to the rails and was caught by the coming train and fifteen carriages passed over him. A medical man was in the train at the time, who found that the right leg was severed from the thigh, and the left severely injured. Deceased was removed to Guy's Hospital, but he died soon after his admission. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and exonerated the driver of the engine from all blame.

THE HORNSEY RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Dr. G. Danford Thomas held an inquest at the Hornsey Coroner's Court on the body of Frederick Tilley, aged 49, engine-driver in the employ of the Great Northern Railway Company, lately residing in Commercial-road, Spitalgate, Grantham, who, as already reported, was killed on the 20th inst. at Hornsey Station in consequence of a goods train he was driving dashing into a signal-box. The coroner elicited in evidence that the signals for the passenger line were at safety, and he remarked that the deceased had probably been betrayed into a momentary forgetfulness of the nature of his train, or had mistaken the signals and so driven on. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, adding that, in their opinion, the deceased, being unfamiliar with the road, probably mistook the signals, and recommending that, if possible, some more effective communication should be provided between the guards and drivers of goods trains.

A HUMAN PUMP.—At Helena, Ark., says a correspondent of the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, there is a coloured man named Mack Hamilton, who has been making a show of himself on the streets of that town. Some of his feats consist of eating large quantities of porcelaine and glass without any deleterious effects. His appetite is always in good order, and for a time he will eat enough to convince the most sceptical that there is no trick about it. He also drinks as much as a gallon of water at a time, and then with a motion of his right arm—such a motion as is given to the handle of a pump when pumping—the water comes out of his mouth in a stream as clear as when first swallowed. He is able to drink boiling water, and ejects it by means of a pump-like process, and when it is emitted it is hot enough to scald. He swallows live frogs and small snakes, and by a simple motion of the arm they are forced out of his mouth. He has drunk half a gallon of whiskey without feeling the slightest inconvenience. He has had some splendid offers from different people to go in a show, but he prefers to be his own master. He has a dread that some doctor will kill him for the purpose of making an examination of him.

A MEDICAL OFFICER CENSURED.

An adjourned inquest was resumed by Mr. Wyatt on Saturday afternoon at the George and Dragon, St. George's Road, Camberwell, relative to the death of Thomas Fry, aged nine years, the son of a general dealer residing at 28, Garsdale-road, Peckham. When the inquiry was opened on Thursday evening the mother of the deceased said that the child went out on Sunday night, and got very wet. He slept with the witness, his sister, aged 14, and his brother, 16, the father sleeping on the floor in the same room, in which they all slept and lived. During the night the boy exhibited signs of illness and became very sick. As he got worse, Dr. Bloomfield, of Epsom, the parish doctor, was sent for. He was told that the mother had no money, and he declined to come without an order from the relieving officer. He told the mother to go to the doctor, but she said she could not as she had no money. On returning home the witness did what she could for the deceased, but he died on Tuesday morning. A post-mortem examination, made by Dr. Duke, of the Kennington Park-road, revealed the fact that death was due to inflammation of the left lung and pleurisy. The doctor said he had known worse cases recover, and although he could not say it positively he thought that had the child received proper medical treatment or been sent to the hospital he might have recovered. Mr. Woodman, the coroner's officer, was despatched to fetch Dr. Bloomfield, but he returned, informing the court that the doctor had another case to attend to and could not come. The inquiry was then adjourned, and the appearance he was questioned by the coroner and jury as to his reasons for neglecting to attend to the child. In the first place, the doctor said, the woman would have no legal claim upon him to attend without the relieving officer's order; in the second, the woman did not tell his servant that the matter was urgent; and in the third, he had another important case to attend. He denied that he had been told the woman had no money, and could not go to another medical man. It was the practice to apply to the relieving officer, but had he known that the mother had no money and could not have gone to another medical man he would have attended the woman without the usual order. The room was cleared for the jury to consider their verdict, and when the public were readmitted the foreman said that he and his colleagues had come to the conclusion that the boy died a natural death, but that they had passed a vote of censure upon Mr. Bloomfield for neglecting to attend the child in his capacity of parish medical officer. The coroner concurred, and Dr. Bloomfield walked out of court without saying a word.

WHERE ARE THEY?

The constantly reiterated statement that the police have caused all the disturbances in Trafalgar-square, which have been made by Messrs. Saunders, Conybeare, and Cunningham Graham, received a singular negative on Saturday afternoon. By a previous arrangement made with the sitting magistrate at Bow-street, none of the leaders of the so-called Social Democratic party were present, and the result that the square was perfectly quiet all the afternoon. There was nothing to disturb the public peace, and the police had no one to show their "brutality" upon. The people were present in large numbers, and in addition to the crowd in the square the balustrade in front of the National Gallery was lined by a large assemblage of spectators. The leaders of the movement were, however, absent, and beyond promenade about the square, the people had nothing to do. Itinerant vendors of revolutionary literature drove a fairly good trade among the good-humoured strollers in the square. There seemed to be an exceedingly good feeling existing between the police and the people. The constables and plain clothes-men strolled about, but there was no occasion for their services. Until about half-past four o'clock, when a man giving his name as Robert Lambert Allen, was arrested for obstructing the police and for disorderly conduct, and taken to King-street Police Station. Just at six o'clock a balloon was perceived floating high in the air, and attracted a considerable amount of attention. After the unexpected appearance of the aerial voyager, the assemblage, finding nothing more to interest them, dispersed.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

The following appointments were on Saturday notified at the Admiralty:—Staff-Commander George D. Lee, to the Camperdown (to date 21st inst.). Midshipman Frederick Loring, to the Martin (to date 21st inst.). Mr. John G. Harris, to be surgeon and agent at St. David's Head (to date 21st inst.). It is notified to officers, men, and marines, that the distribution of prize money for two slave dhows, captured by H.M.S. Starling on October 21st and 22nd, 1885, will be distributed on Tuesday next, at the Prize Branch of the Accountant-General of the Navy, Spring-gardens, Charing Cross.

On Saturday the following changes were carried out:—Colonel Needham succeeded the Hon. Reginald Talbot in the command of the 1st Battalion of the 1st Regiment of the Buffs. Major-General temporary commandant of the 2nd Dragon Guards (Queen's Bays). Lieut.-Colonel Davison succeeded Colonel Maillard in command of the 10th Lancers at Aldershot; and Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Stockley took over command of the 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment. In each case the change of commanding officers was due to the officer relieved having completed six years' service as a regimental lieutenant-colonel.

FRENCH HOSPITAL IN LONDON.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of a French hospital and dispensary took place on Saturday afternoon before a large and distinguished audience. The ceremony was performed by M. Waddington, the French Ambassador, who was supported by Cardinal Manning, and many prominent persons taking an interest in the work. M. Waddington, who spoke in French, said, in the course of a long speech, that a great benefit would be derived from such an institution. At the close of his remarks the band struck up the *Marseillaise*. Cardinal Manning, who was attired in full canonical dress, and preceded by a priest carrying a cross, advanced to address those assembled. His eminence endorsed the views of the French Ambassador, and enumerated the advantages that would be derived by the French residents in London, stating that they were incalculable. The site of the new hospital is in Shaftesbury-avenue, and has cost £7,000. The cost of the erection and furnishing of the building will be about £20,000. The committee has already received the following donations:—The French Government £2,000, Madame Patti £1,100, M. Nicols £1,000, M. Waddington £100, and Messrs. Rothschild £100. The architect is Mr. T. Verity. The orchestra, under the direction of M. Hervé, then played a selection of music, and the proceedings closed with God Save the Queen.

At Brighton on Saturday an inquest was held on the body of Eliza Hughes, a domestic servant, whose dress, whilst she was standing in front of the kitchen fire on the previous Sunday, became ignited. Her screams attracted her master, Mr. Ockendon, and he rushed to her assistance, but the poor girl sustained such severe injuries that she died in the hospital. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

On Saturday the body of a gentleman, who dropped down dead in Fenchurch-street, City, on the previous afternoon, was identified as that of Mr. J. A. Campbell, a director of the London and Glasgow Insurance Company, residing at Putney. The deceased was about to go to visit a relative at Upton Park, Essex, and was seen to be about to enter Fenchurch-street Station, when he suddenly slipped and fell down dead. A doctor who was called was unable to certify as to the cause of death.

A WALTHAMSTOW MYSTERY.

EXTRAORDINARY DEATH OF A YOUNG WOMAN.

Strange Details.

A mysterious affair, attended by circumstances of an extraordinary and sad nature has been brought to light this week at Walthamstow. The scene of its enactment is a chemist's shop, owned by Mr. Henry Hamilton, and situated in Markhouse-road, and not far from St. James' Street Railway Station. Mr. Hamilton is an old-established chemist in Walthamstow but gave up business a year or two ago. As the place, however, began to populate he re-opened the premises, and placed them in the sole charge of a man named William Barber. On the 21st inst. Mr. Barber sent his errand boy, a lad aged 16, named Frank Playle, to a Mrs. French, residing at 203, Boundary-road, Walthamstow, with a note, instructing him not to deliver the note to any one but Mrs. French, and when no one else was present. The lad went to the address indicated, and Mrs. French opened the door, but was accompanied by her husband, therefore the lad made some excuse and returned to his master. Mrs. French was only 22 years of age, and has only recently been married, her husband being employed as manager to Mr. Hudson, a grocer in the neighbourhood. After a lapse of time Mr. Barber sent the lad back with the note to Mrs. French, who this time was alone. She read the note, and replied "Yes." The lad on his return gave Mr. Barber this answer, and was sent for a shilling's worth of brandy. Mrs. French arrived at the shop shortly after her return with the spirits, and was shown into an ante-room or parlour at the back of the shop. This was about four o'clock. Mr. Barber told Playle that he might go home, which he did, evidently being used to leave for his tea at that hour.

Mrs. French was then in the Parlour.

What transpired between this period and six o'clock, a lapse of two hours, is a mystery. Playle returned to the shop at six o'clock, but having failed to gain an entrance by the front door he scaled the wall which separates the garden from the footpath in Prospect-place, and entered the house by the back door. He then found Mrs. French lying on a couch in the parlour, and she was dead. Failing to discover Mr. Barber, the lad summoned assistance. Dr. Thorpe was soon in attendance, and coming to the conclusion that the woman was suffering from chloroform poisoning, and having unavailingly applied the usual remedies—Dr. Blight was summoned, and he decided to perform the operation of tracheotomy, which gave relief, but consciousness did not return. By some means the police heard of the affair, and Superintendent Craggs coming to the house sent for one of the divisional surgeons, Dr. Chambers. Throughout the night and all the next day efforts were made without intermission to restore consciousness, but without effect, and the unfortunate young woman died about midnight on Sunday, the 22nd inst. Meanwhile the police, on searching the premises, found that

A robbery had been committed, the till having been plundered, and from £12 to £15 abstracted. The assistance of several officers was obtained from the Lea Bridge-road Police Station, and diligent search was made for the missing chest, but without avail. In the meantime, the endeavours to restore Mrs. French were continued, and police constables were engaged to restore animation by artificial respiration; but after lying unconscious for thirty-two hours the unfortunate woman breathed her last shortly before midnight on Sunday. The room smelled strongly of chloroform, and on the table in the apartment were found bottles containing brandy and soda, ammonia, chloroform, and other liquids such as would be likely to counteract the effects of an overdose of chloroform. The room was not in disorder, nor were the clothes of Mrs. French disarranged except about the chest. An examination of the deceased failed to show any signs of an assault.

Who Barber is:

The hypothesis which is favoured by the doctors and the local police is that the chemist had arranged to perform an operation; and although no instruments were found on the premises, he could easily carry them away with him when he escaped in his alarm at the condition of his victim. Mrs. French, it is stated, paid frequent visits to the chemist at the shop, and was always received in the parlour, while he in turn visited her residence on Sundays, and occasionally took his meals with her and her husband. Since the death of Mrs. French the police have been trying to discover the whereabouts of the missing man, but hitherto without success. No one appears to have seen him leave Walthamstow. He is native of Hitchin, but had been in the United States for a considerable period, where he took his diplomas. These, together with all his correspondence, have been taken possession of by the police. The description of Barber is as follows:—William Barber, aged 35 years, chemist's assistant, height 5ft. 6in., complexion, hair, and moustache fair; near-sighted; dressed in a grey jacket, dark trousers, and a hard felt hat. He is sly-footed. The police have obtained some excellent photographs of him, and they are being reproduced for publication.

Some Theories.

The explanation of the administration of chloroform at all in this case is still sought. Various sensational allegations have been circulated, but so far, Tuesday's medical examination does not support any of them. There is absolutely no evidence of outrage, of violence, or of immoral practices. On the other hand, the woman's teeth were very much decayed, and it is believed to be not unlikely that she endeavoured to obtain relief from her friend, the chemist. She might, it is suggested by the chemist, have had recourse to the chloroform bottle herself, supposing, in her ignorance, that it was as harmless as "camphorated chloroform," which is a popular specific for toothache. Barber, it was clear, had tried his utmost to resuscitate her, but some reason requires to be assigned for his suspicious flight. He is charged also with emptying his employer's till, although it is not true that he took Mrs. French's purse. For what reason he wrote to her, and why she stayed with him for over two hours in the back room of his shop are points which remain also to be cleared up. That Mrs. French was a frequent visitor to the shop in Markhouse-road is a statement corroborated by the neighbours; but the most circumstantial account is that which was given on Tuesday by the boy, Frederick Playle, who when asked whether he had ever carried letters to Mrs. French from his master on any previous occasion, answered in the negative, but added that notes had passed between Barber and Mr. French, which the wife of the latter sometimes opened. The lad recalls that for several months Mrs. French was in the habit of calling at the shop in Markhouse-road usually about eleven a.m., and that whenever she came Barber despatched him on errands which would in some cases detain him for an hour or two. If he returned earlier he was immediately sent out again, but Playle affirms that he then noticed the door of the ante-room was shut, and he formed the impression that Mrs. French was still there because of his master's behaviour. He says, nevertheless, that he never saw her in the back-room, and no patients were ever received in this private sitting-room. Six months ago Mrs. Hamilton, who attended to Barber's domestic wants, died, and since then there had been an arrangement by which Mrs. French supplied him with his meals, for which he paid. Mrs. French went to see her mother pretty regularly, because she kept some business going for her, and on the way to the house she would have to pass the chemist's, and Barber might exchange a word with her at the door. Mr. French believes Barber to have been drinking, and not

to have been accountable for his actions until his mistake sobered him.

THE INQUEST.

The Husband's Evidence.

The inquest on the body of Mrs. Annie French was opened on Wednesday, at the mortuary of the Walthamstow Cemetery, before Mr. C. C. Lewis, the coroner for South Essex.—Mr. Arthur George French, husband of the deceased, was called, and stated that he resided at 203, Boundary-road, Walthamstow. He was assistant to Mr. Hudson, a grocer, in the same thoroughfare. The deceased was 22 years old. He had known her for upwards of five years, and had been married to her for two. He had resided at Walthamstow for over five years, and was married at St. Peter's Church, Walthamstow. His wife followed no occupation, and only had her household duties to attend to. He last saw her safe and well at a quarter past two o'clock on the afternoon of the 21st, when he resumed his duties after dinner. He dined with his wife at about one o'clock, and left her as stated. No one else was present, and she then seemed to be in the best of health.—The Coroner: Was she in good spirits?—The Witness: Yes; first class, she was.—Did she not complain of anything?—She said she thought she had the toothache coming on again, but nothing to speak of. The witness added that his wife had had an attack of toothache a fortnight previously, when she purchased a small bottle of chloroform from Mr. Hamilton's shop, and the bottle was how at home with Mr. Hamilton's name upon it. The deceased did not intimate to him on Saturday that she was going out. Indeed, she made no remark on the subject. The witness's residence was adjacent to the shop. As near as he could learn, his wife left home about three o'clock. He did not see or hear anything of her again until about seven o'clock in the evening. On finding his wife out when he went to his tea he thought she had gone to her mother's house.

How He Found Her.

At seven o'clock Mr. Jackson, a friend, sent for him, and he went to the shop of Mr. Hamilton, chemist, where he found the deceased lying in a parlour leading out of the shop. Dr. Thorpe was with her, as were also Mr. Patchell and Mr. Drummond. The deceased was unconscious.—The Coroner: Were you at all aware that she was going to Mr. Hamilton's shop?—No. Mr. Hamilton had a manager, named William Barber, who did not himself reside on the premises. The witness remained with his wife until she died, at about quarter to twelve on Sunday night. He had known Barber for two years. He was not a close friend, and the introduction of him to his wife came through the witness. Barber was a single man, about 35 years of age. He was in the habit of coming to the witness's house, a friendship existing between them. They used to take early morning walks together, and as a rule Barber was at the house every other day. The distance between the witness's place of business and the chemist's shop was about a quarter of a mile. Barber, as a rule, dined with the witness on Sundays.—The Coroner: Were you aware that your wife was in the habit of visiting him?—Yes; but she always told me of it. She had business in that direction to see her mother, and would call in as she passed.—Have you ever had any suspicion that any improper intimacy was going on?—Not the least. He was not aware that his wife had been in the habit of receiving letters from William Barber. Had searched for them, but could not find a letter alleged to have been delivered on the Saturday.—Has the deceased ever made remarks to you with reference to Barber?—She has told me that.

She Utterly Disliked Him,

and wished he would keep away from the place.—Anything else?—No, I don't think so.—In reply to Detective-Inspector Glass of the Criminal Investigation Department, the witness said that the photograph produced was that of the man Barber. A Juror: For about two months there had been an arrangement by which Barber was to send to his house every day for a dinner, which his wife cooked. The witness made the arrangement and Barber paid for what was supplied him. After his wife told him she disliked Barber the witness treated him coolly, but continued to supply the dinners. Barber was very peculiar last Sunday week.—In what way peculiar?—He was very quiet. We could not get a word out of him. He said he was very miserable. My wife left the house while he was there.—Did you ask him why he was miserable?—He said he was lonely.—A Juror: Was he a man who drank freely?—Yes.—Do you know what he drank?—Spirits, lately.—Have you ever seen him the worse for drink?—No.—By a Juror: Deceased's teeth were in a bad state, several of them having decayed, and she had spoken about them to Barber in the presence of the witness.

The Boy's Statement.

Frederick Playle, a lad, was next examined. He said he resided at Low Hall Farm Cottage, Walthamstow, and was errand boy in the service of Mr. Hamilton. There was no other person engaged in the shop besides Barber and himself. Mrs. French had come to the shop every morning for about nine months past.—About what time, as a rule, did she call?—About eleven o'clock.—Did she remain any length of time?—I was sent out of the shop when she came.—Who sent you?—Mr. Barber.—Do you recollect what he said when he told you to go out?—No. He generally had something ready of me to go out with.—Did he do that only when Mr. Barber called?—No, I was called by other people who called.—When can Barber generally find some one in the back parlour?—Mrs. French left through the shop. I was usually gone about half an hour, and as a rule, Mrs. French was there when I returned. If Mrs. French had not gone, Barber used to send me out again.—Have you ever seen them sitting down together?—She was sitting on a chair and he was standing.—Have you ever seen anything particular between them?—No.—Did they seem to be on very friendly terms?—Yes.—But you had never seen him put his arm round her waist or anything of that sort?—No.—Further questioned, the witness said Mrs. French had been to the shop on Saturday morning. She then simply came in and went out again, saying she would call as she came back. The witness was not in when she returned. About twenty minutes past one the witness was sent by Barber to wait for Barber's dinner. The note was soaked up, and Barber told him he was to give it to Mr. French if Mr. French was not in the kitchen, but if he was in the kitchen the witness was to bring the note back. Mr. French was in the kitchen, and consequently he took the note back. After the witness had his dinner he was again sent with the note, and he handed it to Mr. French, who was in the kitchen with her bonnet on. The witness was to ask Mrs. French if there was anything to go back, and she told him to reply "Yes." When the witness told Barber, he replied, "That's all right," and sent him for some brandy—a shilling's worth. As the witness was going for the brandy he saw the deceased enter the shop. This was about a quarter past three. The witness returned in about five minutes and found the shop door closed. He knocked at the side door, as instructed by Barber. The latter took the brandy and shut the door, remarking that it was all right.

His Manner Appeared Dull and Strange.

The witness then went home, and returned about six o'clock in the evening. He then found the front door of the shop locked, and knocked at the side door, but received no answer. He got over the back wall into the yard, and entered the house through the back kitchen, the door of which was unlocked. The witness observed that Barber had not had his tea, and he then knocked at the parlour door, but receiving no reply, he went into the room.—Having got in, what did you find?—Mrs. French reclining upon the couch. She was lying with her head resting partly upon

her right hand and partly against the wall. It was more against the wall.—Did you see anything of Barber? Nothing. The deceased appeared to be unconscious and did not seem to breathe. Her bonnet, cape, and umbrella were upon the table.—Which way was her face?—Towards the shop door. She was in a sitting position.—What did you do?—I ran through the shop and unlocked the front door, and called Mr. Patchett, a butcher, residing next door. The witness saw no sign of any letter lying about. The witness had been in the habit of getting brandy for Barber. During the last week he had spent 12s. in brandy, purchased in pint bottles. Previously to last week he had fetched Barber whiskey and brandy in small quantities. The room was in the same condition when the doctor was fetched as it was when the witness first entered it. The witness said he only fetched chloroform on one occasion from Mr. Hamilton's second shop, and that was nearly a year ago. Had seen Barber attempt to extract teeth about half a dozen times. The instruments were kept in the back parlour on the top of one of the cupboards, but the witness had no recollection of seeing them. There was no sign of anything of the kind when he first entered the room where Mrs. French was on the Saturday morning.—By a Juror: The witness was on friendly terms with Barber. At times, when Mrs. French called and only stopped a few minutes she did not go further than the shop, and then the witness was not sent away.

He was never Allowed to Stay

when Mrs. French was in the parlour, except occasionally on a Saturday night, when he would wait for his wages.—Mr. John Patchett, butcher, residing in Markhouse-road, next door to Mr. Hamilton's (chemist) shop, said he had known the deceased for about six months. He had frequently seen her go to the shop—perhaps twice or three times a day. As a rule, she called every time she passed, although he had seen her go by without going in. He had noticed that at times she remained in the shop a considerable time. On Saturday evening, about five o'clock, the witness was informed by a boy that customers were waiting to go into Mr. Hamilton's shop, the door being locked. He did not remember seeing Barber during the 21st, but about six o'clock he was called by the last witness, and on going into the back parlour he found the deceased in the position described by the previous witness. Her clothes did not appear to be at all disarranged; but there were several bottles upon the table and mantelpiece. The witness, during the afternoon, had heard no noise or disturbance in the house, and had not noticed anything peculiar about Barber during the last week or ten days.

The Medical Evidence.

Dr. George Thorpe said he was in practice at Markhouse-road, Walthamstow, and on Saturday evening, at about six o'clock, was called to the deceased. He attended at once, and found the deceased in a sitting position upon a couch in Mr. Hamilton's back parlour, with her feet upon the ground. She appeared to be insensible, and the witness could scarcely detect her breathing, the respirations being feeble, about 120. Her pupils were widely dilated, and the muscular rigidity was gone. The witness smelt the deceased's breath, and discovered a strong odour of chloroform. Her clothes were not disarranged, except that the front part of her dress was unbuttoned four or five buttons from the top. There was no towel round her dress. The witness fancied her hair was undone but was not certain about that. The deceased's gloves and brooch were upon the table with her umbrella and bonnet, as also a hat which Barber was in the habit of wearing. The witness did not detect a smell of chloroform in the room, but on the mantelpiece there was a tea-ounce of chloroform in a bottle with about an ounce of chloroform in it; also one of the shop bottles containing sal volatile, a six-ounce bottle of carbolic lotion, and a small glass measure, with a glass tube and carbolic acid in it. On the table there was a syphon of soda water and a tumbler, a small glass, brandy flask, a bottle of toothache tincture, some cotton wool, and a hand-bowl containing water and a handkerchief. The witness administered twenty drops of ether subcutaneously, unfastened her dress, held ammonia under her nose, and generally tried all restoratives. At about half past six, finding the deceased getting worse, the witness sent Dr. Blight, who attended and injected more ether, until most of her clothes were removed, and applied artificial means of respiration. This treatment was continued until ten o'clock, when they performed the operation of tracheotomy, which relieved her. Subsequently artificial respiration was continued for nineteen hours, but the deceased expired at a quarter to twelve on Sunday night.

Result of the Post Mortem.

On the previous day, in conjunction with Dr. Blight, the witness made a post mortem examination of the body. Externally there were no marks or bruises of any description, except such as were caused by endeavouring to restore animation. All the membranes of the brain were quite healthy, and there was no fracture of the skull. The lungs were swollen and watery, but there was no pulmonary disease. The heart was natural in size, but the right side was congested with blood, showing obstruction to circulation, and the left side was empty. Witness could not detect chloroform in the abdomen, but detected it slightly on opening the heart. At one end of the stomach there were indications of congestion of the tissues, but otherwise the stomach was healthy, as were also all the other organs. The witness was of opinion that the death was the result of chloroform inhalation, but he could not be positive until the contents of the stomach had been analysed. He had preserved the lungs, windpipe, stomach and its contents, as well as other parts. The deceased was not envenomed.—Have you any reason to suppose that she had been violated in any way?—The Witness: None whatever.—By a Juror: The teeth were very badly decayed, but nothing had been done for them.—Have you any instruments in your room?—Mr. French, being called at the request of Detective-Inspector Glass, said he had no reason to suppose that his wife had been robbed. The inquiry was then adjourned for a fortnight, in order that the result of an analysis of the contents of the stomach might be made by Dr. Tidy.

Barber Seen in the East-end.

The man Barber, who is supposed to be responsible for the death of Mrs. French, has, it is stated, been seen in the East-end of London. A tram conductor, engaged on the line running between Aldgate and Hackney, was on Wednesday struck with the hurried appearance of one of his passengers, who wished, he said, to get to Euston Station, and who wore a blue serge coat and trousers, and a light silver-headed walking-stick. Afterwards, on seeing the portrait of Barber, the conductor at once recognised it as being that of the passenger.

Funeral of Mrs. French.

The coffin containing the remains of Mrs. French was on Wednesday evening removed from the mortuary to the house of her husband, arrangements having been made for the funeral to take place on Thursday afternoon at Bow Cemetery.

What Is Thought in the Neighbourhood.

Mr. John Patchett, butcher, who gave evidence on Wednesday at the inquest, informed our reporter on Thursday afternoon that both Mrs. French and Mr. Barber were very popular in the district. On the morning of her death Mrs. French called at Mr. Patchett's for some meat, and remarked to him, "I want a nice bit of tender steak." Mr. Patchett was then under the impression that it was for her mother, who was a customer, but he says now that the steak might have been intended for Barber. Mr. Patchett added, "I can't tell myself why Mr. Barber keeps away." It is the general belief here that Mrs. French met her death through a mistake. Mr. Hamilton states that his theory of the case is that Mr. Barber was about to stop a tooth for

Mrs. French, and administered chloroform to her for that purpose. Finding, however, that she did not regain consciousness, Mr. Hamilton thinks that his assistant at once fled rather than face the consequences of his imprudence. "Although I do not believe myself that there is any criminality on his part," remarked Mr. Hamilton, "I believe that nine out of ten men would have left the district under the circumstances. Now that he finds what the medical evidence is, he may, perhaps, return. I hope he will. When I give my testimony at the adjourned coroner's inquiry I can only say that Mr. Barber has served me well, that I never had any reason to complain of his conduct, and that I am sorry he has not returned to face the matter out. I say positively that I do not believe there is any charge against him. What he certainly should have done, when he found that he could not restore the unfortunate woman, was to have sent for a doctor at once, and have explained the case to him. I have known Mrs. French in the district for five years. She always was a lively little woman—'as lively as a kitten'—but I do not believe there was anything wrong between her and Mr. Barber."

Later Details.

Since Barber has absconded the police authorities in many parts of the metropolis and suburbs of London, have received information of a man answering the description of Barber, having been seen at their respective localities. Searching investigations have necessarily resulted, but they have proved fruitless, and the police look upon them as scarce, similar to those experienced during the time that the notorious convict Jackson was at large. As early as Sunday evening last Barber was reported to the police to have been seen in Bermondsey, and from inquiries that have been made the police have already discredited the tramway story. It is not improbable, as previously stated, that he has made his way to the continent with the money which was taken from the till in Mr. Hamilton's shop, making the best use of the eight hours' start he had of the police; but the prevailing opinion seems to be that he is concealed somewhere in, or near, the locality where the mystery had its origin. On Thursday night Detective Glass and other officers who are investigating the case, had not made any arrest.

"SMART" WOMEN IN PARIS.

Women are not the least active and artful among those numerous people who live by their wits in Paris, as the following incidents will testify:—On Sunday evening, the 22nd inst., a well-dressed female made a desperate attack on a lady who was travelling in the same compartment of a first-class carriage with her from Paris to Saint-Germain. The lady pulled the alarm-bell, and the train, which was stopped by the guard, before the cars could be brought to a standstill she had snatched a reticule containing £100 from the lady and had thrown it out of the carriage window. It is believed that the woman was a confederate of some of the numerous card-sharps, or *bonneteurs*, who infest the railway lines around Paris, and it is quite probable that the booty flung out of the window was picked up by her friends. The other instance of feminine craftiness and criminality was of a more peculiar character. Last week a good-hearted widow—Madame Cerisier by name—was visiting a cemetery when she observed an elegantly-dressed lady kneeling before a tombstone, and sending up piteous wails to heaven. The heart of the widow was melted, particularly when on venturing to offer consolation to the magnificently-arranged mourner she was told by that person that she was the Comtesse de Saint-Remy, and that she was weeping for the loss of her lord, whose name and coat-of-arms were daily emblazoned on the tombstone before which she knelt. Madame Cerisier conducted the Comtesse out of the cemetery, hailed a cab, and invited her newly-found acquaintance to accompany her home. The intimacy thus begun soon developed into friendship, Madame Cerisier receiving a daily visit from the Comtesse. On Saturday the lady with the sham title, who gave her Paris address at a good hotel, began financial operations for the first time. She asked the widow for a loan of £30, stating that her banker in the country had promised to send her funds in a few days. The unsuspecting Madame Cerisier opened her purse, and produced the requisite sum, but on calling at her friend's hotel for the first time, she was informed that no such person as she described was known in the place. Of course, the adventuresome woman who performed this peculiar "confidence trick" has not since been seen or heard of.

EXTRAORDINARY ROBBERY BY A BOY.

At Marlborough-street Police Court on Monday, Edward Goodspeed, an errand boy, of 11, living with his parents in Grafton-street, Fitzroy-square, was charged with stealing, on June 21st, £25 10s.; on June 22nd £15 10s.; on July 7th, 4s.; and July 16th, 4s. 10s.; altogether, £53 10s., the moneys of John Mustard, baker, of Grafton-street. Louise Gertrude Boyt, the manageress, said that the prisoner was a scholar at the board school in Whitefield-street, and after school hours he was employed by her master as errand boy. On the several occasions mentioned he was sent with money to be deposited at the branch of the City Bank in Tottenham Court-road. He had the paying-in book with him, and was told to bring it back properly signed.—Mr. Partridge observed that it seemed to be a very imprudent thing to send a child so young with so much money to the bank as far as the corner of the Tottenham Court-road, lest he should be molested and robbed. On each occasion he came back with the book initialed as if it had been done by one of the clerks. On the 21st June he showed her the signature, remarking, "That's a funny way to sign the book."—Mr. J. Gulton Crow, a clerk from the City Bank, said that on none of the dates named had money been paid in by the prisoner, neither were the initials in the book those of any one connected with the bank.—Detective-sergeant Davis, E Division, said he was called in to see the prisoner about ten o'clock on the night of the 21st. On asking him what he had done with the money he said that he had lost it through a hole in his pocket. He put the initials in the book thinking that if he did not he should be in a row when he got back. He had not lost the money or hidden it away, but had lost it as described. He adhered to this statement for some time, but when charged at the station he began to cry, and said, "Do let me go home, and I'll tell you where some of the money is." On pressing him to disclose its whereabouts he said that it was in a bag in the trough in the bakehouse, and on going there witness found £13 10s. in gold and silver. A watch was handed to witness by the manageress, and the prisoner said that he bought that for 6d. in London-street. A 410 note he said he had changed at the Bank of England in company with another boy; £1 10s. he had placed underneath his bed, but he could not find it again. He had lost another lot of five half sovereigns he had given to his brother; three watches he had bought at a shop in Cleveland-street at 10s. 6d. each, but finding they would not go he broke them up and threw them into the street. A pair of opera glasses he served in the same manner, and the remainder he had spent along with other boys in going about to different places. Witness said that the boy's parents were respectable persons, and he thought he must have been led away by his friends who were older than himself.—The prisoner had nothing to say in defence, and was remanded to the workhouse for a week.

Last year there were 195,400,000 cigars and 50,000,000 cigarettes made in San Francisco. Their value was put at \$7,000,000.

Alfred Parr, of Chatham-place, Brompton, was on Saturday attacked by a dog. The animal bit him savagely on the nose, inflicting a serious wound. The sufferer was treated at Westminster Hospital.

THE IRISH EXHIBITION.

Several additional attractions have been added to the Irish Exhibition at Olympia. They consist of a fine show of Kerry cattle, leaping competitions for hunters, and a military sham fight. The last-named, which will undoubtedly be the popular feature of the exhibition, is designed to represent an engagement in the Indian Mutiny between the Sepoy rebels and certain Irish regiments. A castle and fortifications, which have been erected on the ground, are in the hands of the Sepoys, who have mounted seven guns for their defence. The scene opens with the rebels discovered in tents under the walls of the castle watching the performance of a snake charmer, nautch girls, and jugglers. The drum and file band of the rebels having marched over the ground, the engagement is opened by the approach of cavalry scouts, one of whom comes across a rebel picket. This encounter leads to a single-handed sword versus bayonet combat, ending in the defeat of the Sepoy. The garrison of the castle, however, has been alarmed by the clash of arms, and a line of pickets is thrown across the parade-ground, while from the British side a line of skirmishers are advanced, and a detachment of infantry, taking up position on the east side of the arena, opens a hot fire on the enemy. The English skirmishers are driven back, but are supported by a body of cavalry scouts, who move across the ground, single file, firing the while, and the infantry, advancing from the north, make for themselves an entrenchment behind which they open fire on the garrison. At this point of the battle the guns of the Sepoys are brought to bear on the attackers, and two British field pieces open in reply. More infantry is now brought into action, and the fortifications are shelled by mortars. Taking advantage of the panic which apparently the noise of the mortars produces among the enemy, the British infantry pushes close up to the fortifications, and an advance in force is made, the garrison gallantly resisting, but being eventually driven into the castle with the loss of their guns. The gates are barricaded, and the now desperate rebels open a sharp rifle fire from the battlements, and through the loopholes of the walls. But all this stubbornness is unavailing. The British troops force an entrance, and the hoisting of the Union Jack from the outward walls proclaims their victory. The scene throughout is animated, and at times distinctly exciting, and has been received with much favour. The entertainment is to be a permanent feature of the exhibition, and will be performed twice daily.

PRINCESS LOUISE AT BRIXTON.

Princess Louise, who was accompanied by Lord Lorne, visited Brixton on Wednesday evening in order to open the Lambeth Polytechnic, and was locally received by the inhabitants, being escorted by a line of route, a guard of honour of the 1st Surrey Rifles, with the band of the regiment, was mounted outside the building. The new Polytechnic was originally a large swimming bath and skating rink, and is situated in the Ferndale-road. The Rev. Freeman Wills, founder of a kindred institution at Finsbury, saw the capabilities of the building and decided to fit it up as a South London branch. It stands upon an acre of ground, and contains a fine swimming bath, a gymnasium, and a number of class-rooms and workshops. Some of the classes are already at work, and members are crowding in daily, the number at present being nearly 1,000. Mr. Wills has offered the Polytechnic to the South London committee, but if they do not see their way to make it one of the three suggested technical institutions of the district, he proposes to carry it on independently.—The Rev. Dr. Concanon read an address, after which the Princess declared the Polytechnic open, and Lord Lorne said a few words. He expressed his satisfaction that they had upon the council two ladies whose names were heralds of success for the institution.—Mrs. Fawcett and Lady Frederick Cavendish— and commended the establishment of such institutions throughout the country. As a case in point he referred to the Polytechnic founded by Mr. Quintin Hogg in Regent-street, remarking that a young man who had been instructed there was more likely to prove a useful apprentice than if he had not gone through such a course of training. Englishmen were slow in getting under way, but when they once started they could outstep most foreigners. It must be admitted that we had a good deal of leeway to make up, especially in learning the geography of our empire. In conclusion, he wished God speed to the Lambeth Polytechnic. The Princess remained for some time in the building and witnessed entertainments by members of the Finsbury Swimming Club and Gymnasium. She also inspected the class-rooms and workshops, where some of the boys were at work.

THROWING £100 INTO THE RIVER.

Thomas Arthur Carter Grant, 17, of Battersea Park-road, described as an office-boy, in the employ of Mr. Edward Stadenhagen, a merchant, trading as Elder, Smith, and Co., of King's Arms Yard, Moorgate-street, was charged at the Guildhall Police Court, with forging two letters, purporting to come from a Mr. R. Barrsmith, of Adelaide, Australia, by means of which he obtained two cheques for £100 each.—A clerk said it was customary, when Mr. Barrsmith wrote for money to be paid to customers in London, to do it and debit him with the amount. The letters, which were not being like that of Mr. Barrsmith, the clerk wrote to Mr. Stadenhagen, who was away in the country at the time, for advice. By return of post he received instructions to telegraph to Adelaide to ascertain if the letter was all right. The telegram was handed to the prisoner to take to the telegraph office. The reply telegram was afterwards brought in to the clerk by the prisoner authorizing him to pay two cheques mentioned in the letter. The cheques were drawn and forwarded to the addresses given in the letter. After that being done, a letter was received from Mr. Barrsmith saying that the letter purporting to come from him was a forgery. The telegram authorizing the payment of the cheques was then examined, and it was found that the original writing on it had been erased, and other writing written over it. From that time the accused had not attended to his duties at the office, giving illness as an excuse. A clerk went to his house in the Battersea Park-road, and he, after a conversation admitted that he had forged the letters, altered the telegram, and obtained the money. He said that he had bought a bicycle and various other things. He had thrown about £100 into the river.—The accused was remanded.

An agent, belonging to Bristol, was arrested at Queenstown, on Thursday, on board the White Star steamer Celtic, charged with committing a series of frauds on the firm of Messrs. Thom and Company, soap merchants, Manchester. He was taken before a magistrate, and remanded pending further enquiries from the Manchester authorities.

SPRAINED TENDON—PROMPTLY CURED.

MR. E. F. PAINTER (of London Athletic Club and Ranelagh Harriers), 55, Finsbury-road, South Kensington, writes:—"I have been suffering from a sprained tendon for the past three months, and have tried every remedy I could think of, but none have done me any good. About a month ago I was recommended by a fellow athlete to try St. Jacobs Oil, which I applied at once, and it did me so much good that I shall in a few days commence running again. Shall recommend it to all my fellow athletes as being the best remedy I have ever tried."—Mr. G. Smith (of Houndsworth Friary Football Club), 18, Carlyle-road, Hammersmith, Brompton, says:—"Not long since I received a severe sprain in my ankle whilst on the football field, which wholly disabled me from working. The ankle was much swollen and very painful. Learning of the virtue of St. Jacobs Oil in such cases I procured a bottle and applied the contents regularly for one week to the ankle, by which time the swelling and pain had wholly disappeared, and I was able to walk. I have also found the Oil a most excellent remedy for toothache and headache. I have, therefore, no hesitation in recommending your Oil to football players, as well as all persons suffering from pain."

tion of public opinion. But, justly, as the Parnellites would be punished by such a course, Ministers would be unwise to take it. To do so would be to lay themselves open to the charge made against them by Lord Rosberry at Stanstead, the charge of wishing to prosecute political opponents from party motives. The Separatists would then certainly not fail to take advantage of the English love of scrupulous fair play to try to persuade the country that such was the wish of the Government. From any such suspicion, however groundless, the Government and the Unionist party must carefully keep themselves free. Their course, therefore, is clear. If the Opposition will not accept the measure substantially as it stands it should be abandoned altogether. In that way Mr. PARNELL and his friends on the one hand, and the Times on the other, will appear before a tribunal which, happily, cannot be paralysed by any devices of old Parliamentary handicraft the tribunal of public opinion. And, if Mr. PARNELL and his friends are content to abide by the verdict of that tribunal, then the Times may be equally satisfied, and so also, most assuredly, may we.

The time has really come for the police to take more energetic action in "moving on" members of the Salvation Army who create obstruction by holding religious services in the Queen's highway. That they should have been allowed to do so for so long a time with so little interference is probably due to the fact that their meetings are convened in the name of religion. It is wholly to the credit of the police that they hesitate, as most Englishmen do, to interfere with a professedly religious assembly. But everybody now sees that the question has nothing to do with religion. Religion can be preached without the preaching being a public nuisance, which this Salvation method unquestionably is. In several recent cases, and more particularly in one at Hampstead last Wednesday, magistrates have laid down the law very clearly, and have not hesitated to enforce it. But something more is wanted. Instructions should be given to the police to deal summarily with these obstructionists as with other obstructionists. The promoters of the Trafalgar-square nuisance have frequently defended themselves on the ground that they were doing no more than the Salvationists were allowed to do. This sort of excuse must no longer be given them; and the Salvationists must not be allowed to annoy the general public in the name of religion.

The Railway and Canal Traffic Bill was read a third time in the House of Commons on Wednesday. The measure has not passed its third reading without being subjected to considerable alteration and amendment in committee. It is gratifying to notice that such changes as have been made are entirely in favour of the agricultural interest so largely affected by this bill, the railway companies having given way all along the line. As to the commission which is to constitute the tribunal for the decision of disputes, that will consist of five commissioners, two of them appointed and three ex-officio, and one of the appointed members will be a person skilled in railway business. The scope of the commission is largely extended by the bill, and they will be empowered to award damages in cases where damages are justly due. The bill gives to the Board of Trade full power to determine such classification of maximum rates as is "just and reasonable." On the subject of undue preference to foreigners, the bill is hardly as clear as it should be. On the whole, however, it is a measure to be cordially commended.

THE SALE OF HORSE-FLESH AS FOOD.
At the Liverpool Police Court on Wednesday, before Mr. J. Dickinson, deputy stipendiary magistrate, Arthur Fisher, butcher, 114, Scotland-road, was charged with exposing for sale twelve pieces of meat, unfit for human food, on the 19th inst. Mr. Fisher stated that the meat in question was placed amongst a number of pieces of good beef and mutton, but it was horse-flesh. He did not contend that a man has no right to sell horse-flesh, but, like other meat, it must be good and sound. Yet this meat was a portion of an old horse, diseased and partly decomposed, and smelt as if it had been heavily drugged before it was killed. Inspector Quimby stated that most of the pieces of horse-flesh were ticketed at 5d. per lb., and they smelt more like a corpse than anything else. The defendant said his father had sent it to him from Manchester. Dr. Hope, deputy medical officer for Liverpool, said the sanitary authority did not interfere with the sale of horse-flesh if it was sound, but this was diseased and smelt as if some kind of medicine had been given to the animal. R. Fisher, a retired butcher, residing in Manchester, said he brought the hind quarter of a horse to his son in Liverpool on the 16th inst. He bought it from William Dalton, butcher, Salford, after it had passed the inspector, and the flesh was in a perfectly sound condition as far as he could judge. William Dalton, butcher, 106, Tatton-street, Salford, said he had a private slaughter house in Union-street, where he sold slaughtered two or three horses a week, and sold the flesh at three pence and fourpence a pound in Manchester. The hind quarter which he sold to R. Fisher on the 16th inst. was in good condition. He paid 25s. for the horse. It was in good flesh. Mr. A. W. K. Fordham, veterinary surgeon and cattle inspector for the borough of Salford, said he visited Dalton's slaughter-house in the course of his duty on the 16th inst., and there saw a horse freshly dressed. It was well fed and in good condition, and there was no sign of any disease. He saw the stomach, and there was no sign of disease in it, and every organ was sound. The horses slaughtered by Dalton were generally those which became lame or met with accidents that disabled them. The magistrate said he was of opinion that this meat was unsound and unfit for the food of man, but as the defendant had not been convicted before he should only fine him 50s. and costs.

POCKET-PICKING IN THE STRAND.
At Bow-street Police Court on Friday, Joseph Blackman, aged 22, was charged with being a suspected person, loitering outside Terry's Theatre for the purpose of committing felonies. Detective-sergeant R. Knight stated that on Thursday night, just before the theatre closed, the prisoner went to one of the exits, and as the crowd passed out he followed them, and with the other hand he made over one arm, and with the other hand he attempted to pick the pockets of the ladies. He then proceeded to the front entrance, where he made similar attempts and was taken into custody. It was stated that he had been convicted and sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment for a similar offence. On that occasion he received an excellent character from a man who was shortly afterwards sentenced at the Middlesex Sessions to four months' imprisonment for larceny from the person. Mr. Bridge sentenced the accused to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD SCANDALS.

At a meeting of the board on Thursday, the Rev. Joseph E. Diggle, chairman, vacated the chair in favour of Sir Richard Temple, in order to move the following resolutions:—"That a letter be addressed to the Education Department, asking them to remove Mr. George Macdonald from acting in any capacity as inspector in any of the schools of the board. That the board express their regret that the Education Department, in conducting the correspondence in relation to this matter, should not have dealt more fairly and frankly with the board, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Education Department." "That the board express their confidence in Mr. Clague (one of the inspectors of the board), and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to him and to the Education Department." A letter was received from Mr. R. M. Macdonald, on behalf of Mr. Macdonald, the writer observing that one allegation brought by Mr. Clague, an officer of the board, against Mr. Macdonald, had been proved to be false, and that no evidence was forthcoming to substantiate the second allegation. The letter went on to say:—"The allegation not proved is that Mr. Macdonald induced a teacher in a school in the district in which Mr. Macdonald acts as assistant-inspector to become collateral security for him, by joining in a promissory note, the only ground on his father's death and consequent occasion for supplemental help, he borrowed £10 from a society, repayable by instalments, and that he gave the name of a friend who was a teacher in his district as a reference; the £10 having been repaid by instalments by Mr. Macdonald himself within a year from its being borrowed." Mr. Diggle spoke at great length, and with considerable warmth, upon the question, and denounced the conduct of the Education Department in the course taken with regard to the correspondence which had ensued between that authority and the board. He (Mr. Diggle) did not ask the department to dismiss Mr. Macdonald, one of her Majesty's inspectors, but he certainly ought not to be allowed to again act as inspector in any of the board's schools. (Hear, hear.) An inspector who had been proved to have borrowed money from a teacher whose school he visited—(Great disorder, Sir Richard Temple rising in his seat and exclaiming, "Order, order, I must ask the members not to interrupt.") was not fit to enter the board's schools; one who, in fact, had had monetary relations with the teachers. "Whenever you have that kind of relationship between her Majesty's inspectors on the one hand, and teachers on the other, I think," said Mr. Diggle, "it is a relationship the board cannot countenance." ("Hear, hear.") The Rev. gentleman, contending that he should prove the case against Mr. Macdonald up to the hilt, read the following letter addressed to Mr. Bates, the following by Mr. Macdonald:—"My dear Sir, Mr. Bates, your letter is very pleasant, and I am glad to hear of it. (Laughter.) I have such an attack of lumbago and worry that I am not at all well, or would call and see Mr. Macdonald very early. I will, however, send you a complete account of the case, which you shall show to him. Thanking you for your kindness, and in hopes of a speedy victory, faithfully yours, GEORGE MACDONALD." He (Mr. Diggle) presumed that the Mr. Bates was the gentleman whose name appeared at the foot of all correspondence in relation to this matter which had proceeded from the Education Department. (Laughter and surprise.) And from whom was the "speedy victory" to be obtained unless it was from Mr. Clague? The Rev. speaker having alluded to the fact that at one Board school the questions for the examination of teachers for certificates were known before the examination took place, moved the resolution he had proposed. Mr. Bates seconded the resolutions, but applied to Mr. Diggle to withdraw the first. After several amendments had been lost, the Rev. Charles Gull moved, "That the chairman of the board be requested to forward to the Education Department the statement made by him to the board, for their information and investigation." This amendment was carried. At a quarter to nine, after five hours and a half had been spent in the discussion of this subject, the ordinary business was commenced, but according to the rules no opposed recommendation could be taken, and the board shortly afterwards adjourned.

ANOTHER GREAT LOG-RAFT.

Mr. Leary, who built the great log-raft last December, has, New York correspondent says, repeated the experiment in a different form. Since February 300 men have been busy at Port Jervis, Nova Scotia, building a log-raft, lashing together huge timbers into a cigar shaped mass somewhat resembling a vessel. It is 700 feet long, 65 feet wide, 38 feet deep, and contains 30,000 logs from 40 feet to 90 feet in length and 1 foot to 2 feet diameter, mostly pine and cedar. Seventy-five tons of steel-wire rope, 1½ in. and 2 in. thick, were used for lashing, together with stout saplings. The timber is valued at \$50,000. It would require 100 schooners to transport the contents. The monster fabric has been ready for launching during the past three weeks, and at that point on July 25th every year reaches a height of over 60 feet. When at noon over 100 feet of the raft were floating. Then at a given signal 100 heavy check-blocks were knocked away and the 20,000 tons of logs slid gracefully into the water. The largest and strongest tug in the neighbourhood was in readiness to make fast and towed them out into the bay. Two powerful tugs will be employed to tow this novel ship to New York city. It is thought that it will be under way in three days, and that with fair weather it will reach its destination in ten days. One of the tugs would be sufficient for the task under ordinary circumstances, but in case of a storm a second tug will be at hand to avoid a repetition of the fate of the last raft. Owners of vessels will watch the project with interest, for if successful it will detract largely from their carrying trade.

HEAVY DAMAGES AGAINST A RAILWAY COMPANY.

At the Nottingham Assizes on Friday, William Henry Taylor, lace manufacturer, sued the Great Northern Railway Company for damages for personal injuries sustained through the negligence of defendants' servants. The plaintiff's case was that while he was sitting in a carriage it was driven suddenly against fixed buffers in the station at Nottingham, and he was thrown violently to the other side of the carriage and back again, the result being that he had been permanently injured, and his business suffered accordingly. Letters read showed that the company had offered £2,000 to settle the claim, but this was deemed inadequate. For the defence the company admitted the negligence of their servants, but contended that the plaintiff's condition was not altogether due to the accident. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £2,154 17s.

FOREIGNERS IN THE EAST-END.

Superintendent Arnold gave evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on emigration and immigration on Friday, as to the influx of Jews and foreigners to the East-end. He stated that in the locality where they have stationed themselves the English workmen have been driven away. They were dirty in their habits, and in passing along the streets it was perceptible that they were industrious when persons. (Laughter.) They were industrious when they obtained work. He had seen them at work late at night without money wandering about the streets aimlessly. There were two institutions—streets where they were maintained for fourteen days, till they obtained employment, and the other an eating-house, where they were provided with dinners. They were charitable institutions. When any of the Jews failed to get work he believed they were supplied with money and sent on to America.

THE NAVAL MANŒUVRES.

A Blockading Squadron at Work.

In connection with the naval manœuvres now going on round our coasts, a correspondent writing on Wednesday from on board the Aqueduct, flagship of Admiral Rowley, says:—"War was declared at noon yesterday (Tuesday), and we have already had a smart engagement with the enemy's ships. As yet we have no casualties to report, but it is feared that one of Admiral Fitzroy's cruisers escaped in the night, and if so trouble may soon be expected on the British coast. This squadron left Lamlash soon after noon on Monday, and steamed slowly to a position off the point in Lough Swilly to be blockaded, arriving there at about eleven a.m. on Tuesday, or an hour previous to the moment when the Admiralty had apprized us that the British Government intended to declare war. When the bells struck eight and the captain made twelve o'clock, the weather was calm and hazy, with an inclination to rain. In front of us lay the enemy's coast, stretching from Inishmull Island on the east to Tory Island on the west, and with the Signal Station on Malin Head and the Lighthouse at the entrance to Lough Swilly, perhaps fifteen miles away. Scattered on either hand lay the cruisers and battle ships, forming a double semicircle round the port, with the Inflexible somewhat nearer in than the other vessels. To get a clear idea of what ensued, it is as well to state the forces of both sides, and the relative value and order of superiority of the cruisers in the two squadrons. The British are marked B; the Achil force (Admiral Fitzroy) with an A;—Aqueduct (A), Inflexible (A), Iron Duke (A), Neptune (A), Bellisle (A), Shannon (A); Rodney (B), Invincible (B), Devastation (B), Black Prince (B). These are battle-ships. The cruisers are Thames (A), Inconstant (A), Amphion (B), Calypso (B), Mercury (A); then four of equal value, Tartar (A), Serpent (B), Mohawk (A), and Curlew (B); and two of equal value, Grasshopper (A) and Spider (B). About one o'clock the Amphion and two smaller cruisers of the enemy were reported by our scouts to be leaving the harbour, evidently reconnoitring. The Mercury, which, with two of our torpedo boats, had been off Farad Lighthouse, at once retired, followed by the Achil vessels. About the same time a small-funnelled steamer was reported stealing in the direction of Malin Head. The report that the enemy was in sight drew nearly every one in the flag ship on deck, for it was almost ideal weather for blockading, and the interest in the proceedings, which had hitherto been lacking, had been aroused by the admiral making public his orders and instructions soon after we left Lamlash. The Amphion had now approached the Inflexible within the specified 4,000 yards, and at two o'clock exactly the turret ship opened fire, and went ahead full speed for the cruiser. A smart chase ensued, and if the enemy had not been so much hampered by the fact that the Inflexible was so much out of the water, it might have fared hard with the Amphion. As it was, with her fifteen knots she soon distanced the ironclad, and got within the zone of fire of the theoretical forts which defend the harbour. The Inflexible also was delayed by a man falling overboard, who was, however, picked up without worse hurt than a ducking.

A Foe in Disguise.

At five o'clock it was reported that the Achil squadron was coming out in force. The admiral closed in his lines and steered towards the land with most of his vessels to the support of the Inflexible, the enemy being made out as the Rodney, Black Prince, Invincible, Amphion, Calypso, and Curlew. As the two fleets gradually closed, a signal was seen to be made from the Amphion to the two-funnelled vessel already mentioned. "We have seen two of the enemy's torpedo boats; have you seen anything of the others?" It was now had apparent that this vessel, which up to now had been reckoned as a disguised spectator, was at least in league with the foe, and she was also recognised as the Hearty, an armed tug attached to the Reserve. As she was not officially one of the enemy's ships, Admiral Rowley made a signal to her to come out to us, which signal she answered in the customary manner, but took no steps to obey. This was great impudence, and she, being then under the Signal Station on Malin Head, the admiral ordered the Thames and Neptune to go in and bring her out. Away dashed both vessels at the command, but, instead of attempting to head her off from the entrance to the Lough, they steered for her direct. At first the Hearty seemed inclined to seek shelter behind the Inflexible, but the intention of her getting between her and her pursuers, the commander evidently thought better of it, and made for Dunaffin Head, a high promontory marking the eastern entrance to Lough Swilly, when the Thames, at ten minutes past six, opened fire, followed by the Neptune, the two Achil vessels being within 4,000 yards, and all going for the harbour at full speed. Shortly after half past six the Rodney opened fire on our advancing ships, whereupon we beat to quarters. The men manured at their guns, our tops were lined with sharpshooters, and there seemed every chance of the action becoming general. We, too, were within the range of the enemy's guns, and soon after the Hearty withdrew slowly, and soon after the Rodney, according to the rules of the game, the flagship drew the fire of the theoretical fortresses. Hard over went the helm, up went the signal for a general recall, and swinging round to starboard, the British Squadron stood away once more to their blockading positions. The Hearty and Amphion had escaped into the harbour.

Skirmishing at Berehaven.

A correspondent on board Admiral Tryon's flagship, Hercules, writes:—"Early yesterday morning operations began in earnest. At 10.40 the last anchor was cast-headed, and the Hercules leading the way, the squadron steamed slowly out towards the Atlantic. The Rupert was anchored between the eastern end of Bere Island and the mainland, protecting the fleet with her guns, her cables reaching from her sides to either shore. She gave a narrow passage through which the squadron advanced in the following order:—Hercules, Warspite, Ajax, Hero, Volage, Iris, and Cossack. Of this fleet the Ajax has 24-inch armour, a thickness matched by only twelve others in the Navy, not forgetting, however, that the Nile and Trafalgar have 27-inch. In Admiral Baines' fleet, which Admiral Tryon has to circumvent, are the Benbow and Collingwood, both with armour equal to the Ajax. The Conqueror has 16 inches, Hotspur 11, Monarch 10, Northampton 9, Northumberland 5. Admiral Tryon knows well that his fleet is no match for theirs, but he hopes to manoeuvre so as to lure some of the enemy within range of our harbour fortifications, which in this war game reverse the rules, and thirty-one 92-inch 18-ton guns. It was reported that the Monarch is coaling at Crookhaven, and to prevent this alone would be well worth a effort, for, adds the correspondent, coal is the vital need of our blockading squadron, and every ton we can make them waste is an addition to our prospect of breaking away from here, under the favouring conditions of a dark night or foggy day. At eleven o'clock the signal was made by the admiral, "Close order." Meanwhile quarters were sounded, and the decks cleared for action, for on the horizon we could just make out the enemy's masts peeping up in the distance, slightly dimmed by mist. By half past twelve we got a full view of the enemy, commencing at the south, our left hand—Northumberland, Benbow, Conqueror, Hotspur, Northampton, Collingwood, and Mersey. The latter suddenly headed at full speed in the direction of Berehaven, as though bent upon attacking the Volage, which had worked her way beyond the rest of the fleet to windward along the shore. The Iris and Severn were, however, ready, and at a trice were after the Mersey. At 12.40 the Mersey sent forth a burst of smoke, and soon came the crack of her 18-ton breech-loader over the sea and back to the hills, followed by another and

another, until the three ships were enveloped in clouds. The challenge was quickly accepted by the Iris and Severn, who opened so hotly on the foe that she took to her heels, sending a Partisan shot as she moved out of range. Although by the rules of this war the Mersey did not remain long enough under our fire to be destroyed, there is no doubt that in actual war she would have paid dearly for her temerity. The rest of the afternoon was spent in cruising off the mouth of the bay, in vain seeking for the enemy, who were too crafty to be allured near shore. Admiral Tryon took the opportunity of exercising his four battle ships in naval tactics, a drill they stood much in need of; although, in view of the fact that they have had heretofore no experience of the kind together, the result was by no means unsatisfactory. While torpedo boats 67, 81, 41, 25, 49, and 78, belonging to the enemy, were anchored about fifteen miles from us in Crookhaven, a deadly fire was opened upon them by our valiant allies the coastguard, at 300 yards range, who fired fifteen rounds, without receiving any return. The Archipelago subsequently entered the harbour, but not until the six torpedo boats were figuratively sent to the bottom.

1,300 MILES IN AN OPEN BOAT, AND SIX WEEKS ON A DESERT ISLAND.

Two seamen, named John G. Crone and Jas. E. Wilson, late of the Scotch barque Henry James, have arrived at the Liverpool Sailors' Home, and given information of the loss of that vessel. The Henry James at the time of the disaster was going from Newcastle, New South Wales, to San Francisco. She had a crew of nineteen hands and ten passengers, besides a stowaway. She struck a coral reef near the island of Palmyra, in the Pacific Ocean, and became a wreck. In an hour the crew had to abandon her, experiencing the greatest difficulty in getting away. The shipwrecked people only saved what they stood in, even the ship's papers and the captain's instruments being lost. One boat containing provisions was swamped, and the food lost. The captain nearly lost his life through being thrown into the sea. Fortunately, a box of matches was not ashore dry, and with them a fire was lighted. The island of Palmyra was found to be small, but a search revealed a number of small boats made of boards and leaves. The island is about 900 miles from Samoa. The mate, who had saved his sextant, volunteered to go in a small boat to Samoa to seek for aid, and a boat was accordingly manned, the mate having for his companions the boatwain and three seamen. These poor fellows were three weeks in the open boat, and their sufferings were very severe. They traversed about 1,300 miles, and their food and water gave out. Had the voyage been lengthened but a couple of days it is likely all would have either gone mad or perished from starvation. The shipwrecked people on the island were in the meantime living on wild birds, birds' eggs, and on coconuts. The men had no arms with them, and the only means of catching the birds was by sticks, and having to get within reach of the birds before they could be caught. In the first days the only water the people had was what they caught by spreading out the leaves of trees. The matches at last got wet, and they could not make their accustomed fire. A powerful telescope glass then furnished a burning glass, and enabled them to get fires once more. Altogether they were on the island six weeks. Of the passengers two were ladies and four children. At the end of this time the mail steamer Mariposa called at the island and rescued the people from their island imprisonment, taking them on to Honolulu. The two men, who arrived at Liverpool from New York in the Cunard liner, and were afterwards taken home by the local branch of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society. They belonged to Maryport.

THE EMPEROR FREDERICK'S DIARY.

There has been a great deal of gossip of the wildest and most scandalous kind about Prussian State papers which are alleged to have been found missing at Potsdam after the death of the Emperor Frederick, and it is stated that they were handed by the Empress Victoria to the Queen when her Majesty was at Charlottenburg, and that they are now in England. The real truth, however, which reaches me from a trustworthy correspondent in Germany, says the World, is that the diary of the Emperor Frederick cannot be found. The Emperor had kept a journal during more than thirty years (ever since his marriage), which was not a mere record of his movements and occupations, but an elaborate running commentary upon public affairs—both political and social—very much in the style of Mr. Greville's Memoirs. This diary was contained in thirty immense volumes, each being secured by a lock, and directly after the Emperor's death his successor, at the request of Prince Bismarck, his successor, at the whole of the diary should be given up, in order that his Majesty's reminiscences might be placed among the Prussian state archives at Berlin. The Empress refused to surrender the volumes, and when a second and more peremptory application was made after the Emperor's funeral, her Majesty announced that the diary had been taken to England by the Queen, and that she would probably publish it, as it had been her husband's particular wish that it should be published after a suitable revision, and that he had requested her to act as his literary executor. The Empress, I hear, added the justification, as she would derive much benefit from it as her publication. Prince Consort, did from the publication of Sir Theodore Martin's work. The idea of such a proceeding is, however, very objectionable to Prince Bismarck, who apprehends that the Empress might take what he would regard as an extremely inadequate view of her duties as editor; and, of course, the Emperor William objects very strongly to any publication which might reflect upon German policy in the past, or which might be in any way injurious to what he conceives the present or future interests of the empire. Here the dispute rests, but no man can predict with confidence that there will be no publication for some years to come, and that when the diary does appear it will contain nothing which will reasonably take exception. The Empress Frederick is not merely a woman of brilliant talents, but she is very shrewd and sensible, and, apart from patriotic considerations which she is bound to regard, her own interests and those of her younger children are too nearly concerned for her to take any step which would justify active hostility on the part of her son or his Government.

A MAYOR SHOT BY HIS WIFE.

A terrible tragedy is reported from Dury, a village situated in the vicinity of Arras, in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais, France. M. Décaudin, the mayor, has been shot by his wife, death being instantaneous. Madame Décaudin, after attempting to put an end to her own life, the couple were married some years, and had four children. The lady had brought with her a dowry of £12,000, and for some time went very happily. Madame Décaudin had, however, been morose and triste of late. She had taken it into her head that her husband had another establishment at Douai, and she was in a state of mind bordering on temporary insanity when she killed him. The poor man was sleeping quietly when she approached him stealthily, and, putting the muzzle of the revolver with which she was armed to his ear, fired. Madame Décaudin, then applying the weapon to her own mouth, again pulled the trigger. The bullet, after penetrating the palate, came out from the upper part of her forehead, but she was not killed. She was so badly wounded, however, that she was unable to move, and, according to the latest tidings from Dury, it is thought that she may survive the effects of this horrible wound. She is being nursed in the home which she has so tragically ruined, and in the meantime the legal authorities are busily investigating all the details of the mysterious affair.

THE SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A DOCTOR.

Dr. James Gloster, 35, of Upper Phillimore-place, Kensington, was charged, on remand, at Westminster Police Court on Wednesday, before Mr. D'Eyncourt, with causing the death of a woman named Ellen Schumacher, a mantle-maker, in business at 28, Moreton-place, Fimlico, by operating on her for an unlawful purpose, under circumstances already detailed in the People. Mr. Poland prosecuted for the Treasury, and Mr. Gill was counsel for the prisoner. The case for the prosecution was partially disclosed at the inquest on the deceased, and in the earlier proceedings at this court. The woman expired on June 27th, after great suffering, and the post mortem examination showed that the cause of death was acute peritonitis, set up by an internal injury occasioned by an operator. Deceased had visited Dr. Gloster at his home, and several witnesses testified to the fact that he came to her in Fimlico and saw her alone, and that she was very ill after his visit. Her sister then called in Dr. Crane, of Markham House, Alderney-street, Fimlico, and deceased, when in extremis, made a statement, which that gentleman reduced to writing, incriminating the prisoner, who on arrest by Detective-Inspector Borne denied that he had ever attended the woman. Asked for his visiting-book he gave it, remarking, "You will find no entry there." As I did not attend her I made no entry." The hearing of the case lasted the greater part of Tuesday afternoon, and was resumed on Wednesday, the scientific witnesses being examined by Mr. Poland, and cross-examined by Mr. Gill. Dr. Bond, the chief surgeon at Westminster Hospital, could not say whether the fatal injury was inflicted by some person having only a slight knowledge of anatomy, but a professional man of ordinary skill could not have inflicted such an injury without gross carelessness. In cross-examination it was elicited that the wound was just such a one as an unskilled person would make, but that it was made by a gentleman holding the high qualifications of Dr. Gloster, who possesses a special certificate for midwifery from the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Medicine, and Master of Surgery. The case was again adjourned, the accused being taken back to Holloway Gaol in the custody of a warder.

ELIZA ARMSTRONG'S MOTHER.

Applications were made to Mr. Hannay at Marylebone Police Court on Thursday against Elizabeth Armstrong, of 29, Charles-street, Lisson-grove, who is known in connection with the case of Eliza Armstrong, for assault and abuse. It was explained that these causes of complaint arose out of a case heard late on the previous afternoon. Mrs. Armstrong was summoned for threatening Kasia Weston, of Union-street, threatening to wilfully break some glass belonging to Ellen Tooley, of 30, Charles-street. Mrs. Weston said the defendant had frequently annoyed her. Three weeks ago she called her foul names, and said she would settle her. Asked by the magistrate why the defendant had behaved in that way, the complainant said the defendant asked her to swear falsely in a trial, and she would be paid, and she (the complainant) would not do it. In cross-examination, the defendant, in loud tones, asked if the complainant did not call after her, "That's the old woman who sold her child." The defendant called Emma Jones, who said she heard the complainant on the 10th inst. say to the defendant that she (the complainant) did not earn her bread out of her daughter's immoral life. The magistrate fined the defendant 20s. with 2s. costs, or ten days' imprisonment. In the second case the defendant was said to have attempted to upset Mrs. Tooley's basket, and had called her husband a convict. On the 10th the defendant was having a row with Mrs. Armstrong, her husband, and her sister, and without any cause she threw a brick into Mrs. Tooley's room, breaking some glass. The magistrate fined the defendant 6d., and ordered her to pay 2s. 6d. damage, with 2s. costs, or go to prison for five days.

THE FIRST FIRE INQUEST IN THE CITY.

On Thursday morning, at the City Coroner's Court, Golden-lane, Mr. Langham, the City coroner, held the first fire inquest under the act which has just been passed at the instance of the City Corporation to enable all fires occurring in the City to be inquired into by the City coroner. The inquiry related to the fire which occurred on the 22nd inst. at the establishment of Messrs. W. Carson and Co., paint manufacturers, Le Belle Sauvage-yard, Ludgate Hill. The mode of proceeding was the same as that followed in the investigation of a death. The jury consisted of occupiers of premises in the ward in which the outbreak occurred and in this case came from Farringdon. Without, while the ward beadle, whose duty it is in all inquests to summon the jury and witnesses, and in general to collect the evidence for the inquiry, in this case also performed those duties. The witnesses summoned were the occupiers of the premises, the discoverers of the outbreak, police officers, and firemen engaged in subduing the conflagration. Superintendent Hargrave, who acted on behalf of the Fire Brigade, and Messrs. Carson, the occupiers of the premises, were represented by Mr. Snell, a legal gentleman, and Mr. Klenck, fire assessor. Henry Haynes, caretaker of the premises, deposed that he left the premises about nine o'clock on Saturday night, when everything was quite safe. The witness lived on the adjoining premises, and about nine o'clock on Sunday morning he heard an alarm, and discovered that the top floor of Messrs. Carson's establishment was on fire. The witness raised an alarm, and the firemen were then quickly on the spot. James Swaine, the foreman of the establishment, spoke to being on the premises at about two o'clock on Saturday. All the cotton waste, which was used in connection with cleaning the machinery, was in being used, invariably placed in the furnace and burnt. There was nothing used in the manufacture of the paint except oil and turpentine that was of an inflammable nature. Superintendent Hutchings, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, detailed the measures adopted for subduing the fire. His idea was that some lighted soot had been wafted by the wind from the chimney of some other building, and falling down the chimney of this warehouse on the upper floor, had set the contents of the place on fire. It was possible that owing to the heavy rains water had penetrated into the place, and mixing with other goods, had kindled spontaneous combustion. Each of the above suggested causes had been known to cause fires. Captain Davis, who made an examination of the premises at the request of the coroner, having given evidence, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the cause of the fire was unknown.

SALE OF THE WESTMINSTER AQUARIUM.

Captain Molesworth presided on Thursday at an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Westminster Aquarium, which was held for the purpose of confirming a resolution adopted at a meeting held on the 11th of July, for the sale and purchase of the Aquarium at the price of £330,000, to be paid partly in cash and partly in four per cent. first mortgage debentures of a company to be formed and called "Parliament Buildings (Limited)." The chairman, in moving the confirmation of the resolution, said that there had been some letters in the newspapers with regard to life members. It was generally thought that the life members had paid something to the company; but that was a mistake. Those life nominations were given to the shareholders in order that they might nominate their wives and daughters; and if some persons had more nominations than they required for their families, and sold them to the public for what they were worth, it was absurd to imagine that those persons had any claim upon the company. The directors, however, had the matter under consideration. The resolution was carried.

CONSERVATISM IN SOUTH LONDON.

On Saturday evening a fête and garden party was held in connection with the Bristowe Habitation of the Primrose League in the grounds of Dulwich Hill House, Denmark Hill, the residence of Mr. T. L. Bristowe, M.P. A meeting was held in a marquee, and amongst those present were the Solicitor-General for Scotland (Mr. J. P. Robertson, M.P.), Marquis of Carmarthen, M.P., Sir John Lubbock, M.P., Mr. H. Kimber, M.P., and Mr. J. Blundell Maple, M.P. Mr. T. L. Bristowe, M.P., who presided, urged all voters in the interest of Lord Salisbury's Government to see that they were properly registered.

The Marquis of Carmarthen, who was warmly cheered, moved a vote of confidence in the Government. He had been strongly criticised for his action in the House of Commons on Monday night, and would just explain what occurred. Mr. Parnell was speaking about the allegations and charges commission, and in the course of his remarks professed very great anxiety that the commission should be appointed, and said he welcomed it. This, perhaps, inadvertently, caused some laughter among the Conservatives below the gangway, and one of the Irish members shouted out, "You pack of cads!" He then made a speech, and attempted to call the Speaker's attention to it, when another Irish member exclaimed, "You blackguards!" So much excitement ensued, however, that he sat down. They were repeatedly subjected to insults and outrageous utterances from those whose conduct would disgrace a bean-feast of a body of bachelors. (Cheers.) He was determined, despite what was said, to protest against such proceedings. Since the Government had been in office they had worked wonders, and had administered the business of the country in a way which could not be commended too highly. Last session they passed many good measures, and now they had put the crown on the table by conducting the Local Government Bill safely through committees. Great credit was due to Mr. Ritchie for the skill and ability he had displayed in connection with measures full of knotty points. (Cheers.) Mr. Gladstone, at the wine and water feast of Sir W. Lawson, had said it was only a poor skeleton of a measure, and it would be the duty of the Liberal Government, so called, when they came into power to fill it up. (Laughter.) He found, however, that they filled up the measures better on platforms throughout the country than in the statute book of the House of Commons. (Cheers.) He urged them to weigh the revolutionary tactics of Mr. Gladstone before they were prepared to hand over to him the Government of the country. (Cheers.) Major Isaacs, seconded the resolution, and the Solicitor-General for Scotland, in replying on behalf of the Government, said he was pleased to keep in view the interests of the British public, yet took no interest in the Local Government Bill, for night after night, when the bill was being discussed in committee, the Opposition benches were almost empty. What were they really interested in? Why such things as the police, for they infested the police courts and were most sensitive and anxious about the smallest tap on the head administered by the baton of a constable in Trafalgar-square (hear, hear, and laughter), but cared nothing about the safety of peaceful citizens. Mr. Gladstone was now ready to give Home Rule to Ireland, while retaining Irish members at Westminster, which meant that Mr. Parnell and his friends were to govern their own country and interfere with the management of England. It would be improper for him to refer to the charges against Mr. Parnell, but he would say that "Parnellism and Crime" lay very near the root of the Irish question. (Cheers.) Mr. Kimber proposed a resolution expressing confidence in Mr. Balfour's administration of the law in Ireland. General Bray, in seconding the motion, said he believed that Mr. Parnell and all the gang of political ruffians were guilty of siding and abetting the Phoenix Park murders. Mr. Gladstone was trying to shield them from the Royal Commission, and the Irish members were struggling hard and doing all they could to escape the inquiry. The resolution was carried with acclamation.

CONSERVATIVE FETE AT EDMONTON.

At the latter end of 1885 Lord Folkestone's election committee determined to start a Conservative Club in Edmonton, the most Radical part of the Enfield division. For this purpose they hired the rooms, hitherto used for the election committee, and, with a start of five members, have gone on increasing till the number of members reaches nearly 500. Finding that the accommodation was totally inadequate to the wants and comfort of the members, they, last year, hired Brookfield House, a mansion of fifteen rooms, and, after spending £200 and building a billiard room and fitting it up with two tables, they opened the new premises in March last with a grand dinner, at which Lord Folkestone was present. The subscription is £5 a year, which admits of all classes joining. Since the opening new members have been joining at the rate of twelve a week. The only help the committee—which is largely composed of working men—ever received was £100 from Lady Folkestone, being the proceeds of a concert given by her at St. James's Hall. It is only fair to say, however, that there are several gentlemen who have generously subscribed towards the maintenance of the club. For the purpose of paying off the debt on the club, a grand ball, under the patronage of Lord Folkestone, was held on Saturday in Pym's Park, Silver-street, the residence of Sir Henry Tyler, M.P. The programme included open air concerts, performances, dances, and all the fun of the fair. At times the weather looked threatening, but the rain, with the exception of a slight shower, held off, and the 4,000 people who were present, seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves. Lord Folkestone could not be present, or a few speeches would have been delivered. Two bands of music, headed by a splendid banner, paraded the High-road, and afterwards, on returning to the park, played a choice selection of music. Great credit is due to Mr. Rice, the energetic secretary on whom rested the whole of the responsibility, and he and the committee are to be congratulated upon the success of their labours, which will be the means of helping and encouraging those who are engaged in the guidance of the club.

PRIMROSE LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION AT CHARLTON.

A well-attended and enthusiastic meeting of local habitations of the Primrose League was held Saturday afternoon at Charlton House, Charlton, the residence of Sir Spencer Mayson Wilson. The proceedings, which were attended by members of the Charlton, Blackheath, High-street (Blackheath), Lewisham, Spencer, and Woolwich branches of the Primrose League took place on the fine lawn. The weather was very propitious for the occasion, and consequently many ladies were present. Sir Spencer M. Wilson presided, and amongst those on the platform were Mr. Board, M.P., Colonel Hughes, M.P., Mr. Cooper Willis, Q.C., Dr. Bantoul, LL.D., Major Grubb, Mr. Penn, Mr. Hurst, &c. In commencing the meeting, the chairman, who was warmly cheered, said that whenever and wherever the Primrose League met, one thing was certain it had no new doctrines to preach about. (Hear, hear.) The Primrose League were content to abide by the ten commandments—(hear, hear, and laughter)—and perhaps they might be summed up in a very few words—fear God and honour the King. (Cheers.) Colonel Grubb remarked that they were all interested in the stability of the Empire, the maintenance of law and order, and the unity of the United Kingdom. (Cheers.) He congratulated the work rendered by the executive committee of the Primrose League, and said they deserved their warmest thanks and congratulations. (Hear, hear.) Since the Charlton Habitation last met in April they had had an increase of 40 members, and they now numbered 350 exactly. (Cheers.) Mr. Board, M.P., said the history of Ireland was an open book, and anybody could read it, and as they heard so many perversions of the truth it was right they should keep it before their eyes. (Cheers.) Parliament was not the same place now as it was when he (the hon. gentleman) first went there. There was a certain illustrious personage in the House who rejoiced in his pernicious activity—(laughter)—and there were now politicians there quite out of character with those they were accustomed to, but he was thankful that there had been one of those during the past twenty-four hours. (Cheers.) Mr. Cooper Willis had been one of the most notorious offenders, and almost every hour or sitting his voice could be heard raising some disturbance. (Hear, hear.) He thought his removal would certainly conduce to the business of the House. (Cheers.) Referring to the Local Government Bill, he said he did not agree with it; he thought that the effect of it in the counties would certainly be to make county government worse and increase the expenses (hear, hear). He took a most serious objection to the Bill in reference to London; and if they had a separate municipality here, he believed they would be governed no better than in the past. In conclusion, he said he thought it was exceedingly creditable to the Conservatives and the Liberal and Radical Unionists to have in every way contributing to the interests of all classes throughout Mr. Bantoul's extended Empire. (Cheers.) Dr. Bantoul seconded the resolution in a humorous speech, and it was carried unanimously, amid loud cheering. In the course of the meeting Mr. Penn presented a handsome new banner to the Blackheath Habitation. Votes of thanks to the chairman, Colonel Hughes, and Mr. Board, terminated the proceedings.

CONSERVATISM AT WANDSWORTH.

Mr. R. Horrell presided at a garden party on Saturday afternoon at the Wandsworth-road Constitutional Club. After some remarks from Mr. J. S. Gilliat, M.P., Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., stated that there was solidarity in the Conservatism of the English people. (Hear, hear.) He said he wished to speak to the members of the club on a matter which concerned the honour of the public mind and the people of this country. The House of Commons would be on its trial before the English people on Monday. Members of Parliament had been accused of terrible crimes, and the people would shortly see how the House of Commons would acquit itself. He thought he should witness a dramatic scene in Parliament next week. Mr. Parnell had demanded an inquiry into the charges which had been made against him and his colleagues. The Government had accepted, in the name of the people, his request. He thought the English people demanded that this inquiry should be a judicial and impartial one—(hear, hear)—and that the whole of the charges which had been made against the Irish members should be sifted to the very bottom. It had been said that the Irish members were content to march towards that inquiry with murderers; murderers provided their funds; murderers shared their councils; murderers had gone forth from the League office to see their blood work about; and they had frequently returned to consult with their constitutional leaders to the advancement of their cause. (Cheers.) Those were the charges which had been made against the Irish party, and there was going to be a Committee appointed to see what answer they would give. A great authority (Mr. Gladstone) had said—"Behind these outrages there was a strong presumption that there were influences higher than any which belonged to those who committed them." (A Voice: Mr. Gladstone was in office then.) Mr. Parnell was the president of the League. Amongst its officers were Sheridan, who had absconded; Mr. A. O'Connor contended that a Select Committee of the not fit to judge matters in a judicial way because it consisted of six members, and we had the opinion of Dan O'Connell, who had stated that the Select Committee, in matters of this kind, were nothing less than foul perjury. (Cheers.) He, therefore, maintained that if the commission which had been proposed were not accepted, the people of this country would be justified in thinking that Mr. Parnell and his followers were afraid to go before an impartial tribunal, and which tribunal had never been granted to any other persons before. (Oh.) The people would draw their own conclusions as to the conduct of the Irish members. (Cheers.) A concert followed.

CONSERVATIVE FETE AT EDMONTON.

At the latter end of 1885 Lord Folkestone's election committee determined to start a Conservative Club in Edmonton, the most Radical part of the Enfield division. For this purpose they hired the rooms, hitherto used for the election committee, and, with a start of five members, have gone on increasing till the number of members reaches nearly 500. Finding that the accommodation was totally inadequate to the wants and comfort of the members, they, last year, hired Brookfield House, a mansion of fifteen rooms, and, after spending £200 and building a billiard room and fitting it up with two tables, they opened the new premises in March last with a grand dinner, at which Lord Folkestone was present. The subscription is £5 a year, which admits of all classes joining. Since the opening new members have been joining at the rate of twelve a week. The only help the committee—which is largely composed of working men—ever received was £100 from Lady Folkestone, being the proceeds of a concert given by her at St. James's Hall. It is only fair to say, however, that there are several gentlemen who have generously subscribed towards the maintenance of the club. For the purpose of paying off the debt on the club, a grand ball, under the patronage of Lord Folkestone, was held on Saturday in Pym's Park, Silver-street, the residence of Sir Henry Tyler, M.P. The programme included open air concerts, performances, dances, and all the fun of the fair. At times the weather looked threatening, but the rain, with the exception of a slight shower, held off, and the 4,000 people who were present, seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves. Lord Folkestone could not be present, or a few speeches would have been delivered. Two bands of music, headed by a splendid banner, paraded the High-road, and afterwards, on returning to the park, played a choice selection of music. Great credit is due to Mr. Rice, the energetic secretary on whom rested the whole of the responsibility, and he and the committee are to be congratulated upon the success of their labours, which will be the means of helping and encouraging those who are engaged in the guidance of the club.

At the Royal Free Hospital on Saturday Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquiry on the body of Thomas Salter, aged 44 years, a carman, of 23, Amberley-road, who was injured in Guildford street by a van belonging to the parochial contractor. Late on Friday night the symptoms took a bad turn, and he died from bronchitis following the injuries. A verdict accordingly.

LITHOGRAPHIC ARTISTS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

On Saturday afternoon a benefit fête in aid of the above fund was held at the Grange, Kilburn, which had been kindly lent for the occasion by Mrs. Peters, a grand councillor of the Primrose League. In addition, Mrs. Peters also undertook a considerable share of the trouble and expense in connection with the fête. The programme was a very elaborate and comprehensive one, and a prominent place in it was taken by the Marquis de Louville, the chairman of the fête committee; while his efforts were energetically emphasised by Mr. J. W. Harland, vice-president of the National Society of Lithographic Artists, and vice-chairman of the fête committee. The fête took the form of a garden party (for which the prettily laid-out grounds belonging to Mrs. Peters were admirably suited), and an all-fresco as well as indoor concert, while speeches were made illustrative of the objects of the society. These were delivered in the fine old historical baronial hall attached to the Grange, which once formed part of the ancient Kilburn Priory, described as famous, amongst other things, as the temporary residence of Catherine of Aragon. The concert also took place here. It may be mentioned that the fund, in aid of which the fête was organised, differs from many others in that, instead of what might be described as pauperising the unfortunate, it is administered only in the shape of loans to those in distress, free of interest, and repayable by easy instalments when the borrower might be again in full work. The weather on the occasion was dull and overcast. Rain threatened, but it kept off, and the latter part of the afternoon was very fine. The proceedings commenced at three o'clock, when the band of the 19th Middlesex (Brompton) Rifle Volunteers performed an interesting and varied selection of music, under the direction of the bandmaster, Mr. W. T. Harris. Meanwhile cricket, lawn tennis, and other outdoor sports were available for the amusement of the visitors. At half past four the meeting took place in the great hall (before mentioned), when the Marquis de Louville (who is well known as the author of "Entrepreneur") presided, being supported by Captain and Mrs. Westwood, the Hon. Mrs. Denman, General Newall, Lady Blake, the Countess of Castella-Mare, Mrs. Orvis, and many other ladies and gentlemen. The Marquis, in opening the proceedings, said that though it was a lithographers' fête with him they made anything but an impression on the stone. (Laughter.) They were writing together under the glorious flag of art, and when they were "hand up" it was true they were walking about with their hands in their pockets, but their hands were not in other people's. In reality no artist ever would be provident; for if they were how could they realise their beautiful thoughts, in spite of the stern reality that stared them in the face. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Still, let them remember that the journalist, although a brother in art, had a hard, absolute work, which, when it was completed, tired him out utterly; but the artist should bear in mind that the musician's and the poet's work was a sensuous enjoyment, and that they were the spoiled children of nature, and that the journalist had to create the world through the night which should guide thoughts through the night which should guide the world through the night. (Applause.) This society, however, did not pretend to give a mere matter of alms to its members, but to lend for a time small sums of money which would enable them to wait, metaphorically, "till the clouds had rolled by"—(laughter and hear, hear)—and, perhaps, if he might be allowed to joke, the maxim was that they should all live within their margin, even if they had to borrow to do it. (Laughter and applause.) Subsequently the Marquis delivered, with exquisite feeling, a poem of his own composition, entitled, "The Choice of Arms," and on the motion of Mr. Harland, in the absence of Mr. Henry Broadhurst, M.P., who wrote to say he was unavoidably away in the country, a vote of thanks on behalf of the trustees of the fund was passed to Mrs. Peters for her kindness in placing her hall and grounds at their disposal for the fête. A vote of thanks to the chairman temporarily concluded the proceedings. There was then an interval, which afforded time for a wander round the pretty grounds and for refreshment, after which the company re-assembled in the old hall, where a capital entertainment was provided, in which Madame Cornelia D'Anka, the Marquis de Louville, Mrs. Peters (the hostess), Miss Kate Lancaster, Madame Evans Warwick, Mr. Angelo Asher (violin solo), Signor Rial, Mr. M. Baxter, Mr. Sinclair Dunn, Herr Schuberth, Mrs. G. French, and other ladies and gentlemen took part. The concert was much appreciated. Madame Sarah Bernhardt would have been present and lent her valuable aid, but a matinee intervened to prevent her. The entire proceedings were of a very successful nature, and it is to be hoped that they will lead to the augmentation of the funds of the society, which is not only in need, but deserving of help.

THE CHURCH HOUSE.

The first annual meeting of the Corporation of the Church House was held on Saturday afternoon in a tent erected for the purpose in Dean's Yard, Westminster, the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding. There was a very large company present. The report of the work of the executive committee stated that the site chosen for the Church House is on the south side of Dean's Yard, and comprises all the houses on the terrace except three (the acquisition of which is still under consideration) with all the land behind bounded by Tufston-street, Little Smith-street, and Great Smith-street. The freehold of this site has been secured at a cost of £25,500. The receipts up to the end of June amounted to £4,353, and the expenditure to the same total. The liabilities incurred with reference to the site will amount when everything is finished to £42,431, which is covered by the present resources of the corporation. Lord Justice Cotton, in moving a resolution to the effect that the Archbishop of Canterbury declare the Corporation of the Church House in occupation of the site, said that it would be the means of promoting a union between the members of the Church of England and the different churches in communion with it. There must be a good result derived from it as it would be bringing all together. Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., seconded the resolution, and stated that the corporation had acted very cautiously and very economically, but they were still in want of funds for building on the site. He considered the present site as the best that could be obtained. In replying to the above remarks, the Archbishop of Canterbury said that there had been no small amount of labour in the acquisition of the square block of land for the site. They had received since the subscription list was opened the sum of £43,000. Three thousand pounds had been added to the funds of the Church House in a single fortnight. A great number of books had also been presented to the library. The Bishop of Carlisle said that it was the beginning of great things, and that the resolution, which was from the United States, from the various colonies and dependencies, and mission fields in all parts of the world. The Hon. George Cubitt, M.P., and the Bishops of Sydney and Springfield addressed the meeting.

On Saturday Mr. E. N. P. Wood, deputy-coroner for West Kent, was informed of the death by drowning of a woman named George Bailey, aged 23, and residing at No. 14, King-street, Tidal Basin, Victoria Dock. The deceased was employed on the steam yacht Venados, and whilst getting out of a dingy he missed his hold and fell into the Thames.

Mr. William Carter, coroner, last week held an inquiry at the Goat, Cleaver-street, Kennington-road, into the circumstances attending the death of Jane Margaret Winter, aged 4 weeks, the daughter of George Winter, a hairdresser, residing at No. 4, Princes-road, Kennington, who was found dead in bed on Thursday. The jury returned a verdict of accidental asphyxia.

CHILD MURDER AT LIMEHOUSE.

Mr. Baxter held an inquiry at the Town Hall, Limehouse, into the death of a male child, whose body, wrapped in a brown paper parcel, was discovered in an alley running off Burdett-road East. Joseph Campion, a bargeman, living at 20, St. Ann's-street, Poplar, stated that at noon on the 18th inst. he was in Burdett-road, when a girl, apparently a servant, came up to him and asked him the name of the road. She had a parcel in her hand, and after he had answered her she walked slowly down the road. He watched her and saw her enter an alley near a baker's shop. After the lapse of a minute or so she reappeared and made off very quickly. Witness noticed that she had not then got the parcel. Thinking something was wrong, he told a policeman what he had seen, and together they went to the alley, where the parcel was found. Witness went after the woman, but failed to catch her. Police-constable William Buckingham, 634 E, deposed to securing the parcel and removing it to the police station. He opened it, and found the body of a male child. There was a mark on the neck as if it had been pinched. Dr. Anderson, assistant divisional surgeon, deposed that he had examined the child. It was full formed, and had been born alive. There were marks as of fingers on the neck, and in his opinion the child had been suffocated by external pressure, intentionally done. The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown. The police have circulated the following description of the person wanted:—Age 19 or 20, height 4ft. 10in., dark complexion; dressed in blue serge dress, black hat trimmed with blue ribbon, and high-heeled boots and leather belt.

NORWOOD FREE LIBRARY.

Lord Northbrook on Saturday afternoon opened the Norwood Free Library, Knight's-hill, the first of a series of free libraries to be established in different parts of the parish of Lambeth, under the provisions of the Public Libraries Acts. The building has been constructed in the Flemish style, and has been erected at a cost of about £4,500, and this, with the cost of books, which will amount to from £500 to £1,000, will make the total outlay about £5,500. The shelves already contain about 5,000 volumes, and further donations of books are being received. The opening ceremony, which was largely attended, was presided over by Mr. T. Lynn Bristowe, M.P.—Lord Northbrook remarked that the parish of Lambeth appeared to have taken, if not actually the lead, at any rate the most prominent part, in utilising the law which enabled some contribution from the rates to be applied to the foundation and support of free libraries. He thought that the parish was to be greatly congratulated upon the liberality with which, in several parts, persons had come forward, bearing in some cases the entire, and in other cases the main, cost of the libraries. Of the five libraries which it was proposed to erect, the main one was in Kennington, Miss Dunning Smith bore the whole expense of the erection of the library. In South Lambeth, Mr. Henry Tate had borne the whole of the expense of the building of the library, and Mr. John Noble had undertaken to provide, at his own cost, the library in the Waterloo-road. The site for the library which they were opening that afternoon was presented by Mr. Nettiefold, and the funds for the building had been provided by subscriptions, and out of the rate. He formally declared the library open. Sir Lyon Playfair said libraries of that character brought working men into contact with the minds of great authors. The Hon. and Rev. E. G. Pelham (chairman of the commissioners) stated that the commissioners had resolved to open the library for a certain number of hours on Sunday. They were going to make arrangements, however, that no Christian should work on Sunday, but that a member of the Hebrew persuasion would be there to look after the library. (Laughter.) Resolutions were adopted thanking Lord Northbrook and Sir Lyon Playfair for their attendance, and expressing gratitude to Mr. Nettiefold for his gift of the site.

THE COBDEN CLUB.

The annual general meeting of the members of this club was held on Saturday afternoon at the National Liberal Club. Mr. Thomas Bayley Potter, M.P., who presided, said he saw no reason whatever to despair of the ultimate acceptance of the principles of the Cobden Club. On the Continent there was a war of tariffs raging between various protectionist countries which would cause such inconvenience that ere long the advantages of a system of free exchange would be recognised. In America the tariff of Protection had been so great that the taxpayers seemed earnest in their efforts for relief, and doubtless their example would have a great effect all over the world. At home the threatened attack last autumn on our fiscal system had not succeeded as its promoters desired. With reference to the protection of the landed interest, he said he believed that garden-culture in favoured spots, considering the unlimited demand for its products, would be greatly to the advantage of the landowner, and could be facilitated by purchase, and he did not despair of seeing a great effort made at storage of water and irrigation for agricultural and horticultural purposes. The Cobden Club, being impressed with the great importance of this question, are about to publish a series of works on the development of the resources of the soil, the first of which, written by Mr. W. E. Bear, whose name is well known in connection with the farming interest, will be put in circulation in a few days. If the landowners will take the subject into their earnest consideration and make the most of the production of the soil, and also clear away the obstacles which now exist between them as producers and the great body of the consumers, in whatever shape they present themselves, they may find that their interests require no protection, and they may cease to hanker after a restoration of food taxes.

THE ALEXANDRA PALACE.

On Saturday there was a large attendance of visitors at the Alexandra Palace, and the programme being an attractive one and the weather fine, the result all round was very gratifying. In the afternoon the fifth grand concert of the season was given in the large central hall, which was well filled by a highly appreciative audience. The artists were Madame Patey, Mrs. Mary Davies, Miss Julie Albin, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Walter Clifford, all of whom were heartily applauded and deservedly recalled for their successful efforts. There was also a large and well-trained chorus, which gave a good account of itself, and there was likewise an efficient orchestra. Mr. T. W. Henderson was the conductor, and Mr. A. Fagge the accompanist. Amongst the other attractions were organ recitals, a performance by the company's military band, a "variety entertainment," clever feats by the Cleo troupe of Russian gymnasts, and, in the theatre, a representation of "The Colleen Bawn," by Mr. Auguste Creamer's company. On the racecourse ground there were athletic sports, and a military tournament in connection with the 3rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteers. At night Messrs. John Paine and Sons' magnificent scenic and pyrotechnic display, "The Last Days of Pompeii," which the directors have wisely resolved to continue on Saturday evenings, was witnessed by thousands of spectators.

The celebration of the ninth century of the introduction of Christianity into Russia has been held this week.

On Saturday Albert Progers, aged 8 years, of 26, Treherne-road, Kennington Park-road, was admitted to one of the male wards at the Lambeth Hospital, suffering from congestion of the brain, by falling from the parapet of Westminster Bridge, near the stone steps leading to the Albert Embankment.

COOPERS' COMPANY: DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

On Saturday afternoon the distribution of prizes in connection with this establishment, a description of which appeared in the *People* recently, took place in The Hall of Queens, People's Palace, and notwithstanding the early hour, which was considered inconvenient for many of the workmen of the various co-operatives to be present, was fairly attended. The chair was occupied by Mr. William Holborn, master of the Coopers' Company, and amongst others present were Mr. R. Johnson, upper warden, and Mr. J. T. Derby, under warden, Messrs. Turnbull Legg, R. M. Holborn, J. B. Radcliff, members of the court; Mr. Alexander Chalmers, late upper warden, &c. The chairman expressed the pleasure it afforded himself and the other members of the company at being present on such an interesting occasion, and attributed all the success of the exhibition to the exertions of Mr. A. Chalmers, coupled with the indefatigable labours of Mr. Boyd, whose unwearied correspondence and personal labour the court much appreciated. There had been 146 exhibitors, who had sent in 613 exhibits, and up to that night (nine days) notices than 13,150 people had paid for admission, besides a large number who were entitled to free passes in connection with the company. He warned the workmen of the various manufacturers who had been so successful in the prize list of the insidious nature of foreign competition which, with increased steam rail, and canal, and railways was daily becoming more severe, and especially so by German enterprise. He reminded the day when a German was only considered a "baker or sugarboiler," but now he was to be found in all branches of mercantile life and manufacturing industries in all parts of the country. He, however, had no fear of any such competition if only the English mechanic would put his shoulder to the wheel and produce good workmanship in all classes of his manufactures. Prizes to the value of £200 were awarded, and among the principal prize takers were Messrs. John Morris, James Jeffrey, G. William Keyes, John Houghton, Henry Arnold, C. Casson Hill, and Messrs. W. John Chavet, &c. The freedom of the City was presented to the late upper warden, Mr. Alexander Chalmers.

GREENWICH ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL.

On Saturday afternoon the Duchess of Teck distributed the prizes to the successful students of the Greenwich Royal Hospital School. Her Royal Highness, who was accompanied by the Princess Victoria and Prince Francis of Teck, and a large number of members of Parliament and other distinguished persons, arrived at the school at 2.30 p.m. The Duchess and her attendants then drove to the hospital school, where they were received by Captain Collins, R.N., the superintendent. On arriving at the school the Misses Collins presented a bouquet of flowers to her Royal Highness, after which the boys, as a guard of honour, presented arms, gave the Royal salute, and sang the national anthem. A luncheon at the "Queen's House" followed. The Duchess was then conducted to the grounds, where the boys hoisted the Royal Standard at the mainmast of the model ship called "The Fame." After the march past, which was creditably performed, a musical and dumb-bell drill, under the superintendence of Sergeant Cochrane, followed. The swimming baths were next visited, after which her Royal Highness distributed the prizes in the gymnasium. In the upper nautical school, E. Hayton and A. R. Scome each won a challenge medal for several attainments and good conduct. Two silver medals were gained by J. Smith and C. H. Stapleton, the latter of whom was also presented with a book and an outfit, valued at £25, to enter the merchant service, for his proficiency in navigation. A. G. Brown, F. Samuels, and C. H. Stapleton were each presented with a silver watch for being the best conducted boys in the school. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, in thanking the duchess for distributing the prizes, said it was the third time that he had had the pleasure of attending the annual distribution of prizes, and he was glad to be able to congratulate them on the excellent discipline, the conduct of the school, and the results of the examination. He was glad that the nautical division of the school promised so well, there being eighty-two boys who had passed this year out of the seamen class, as against seventy-one last year. The number of boys had also risen from 950 to 1,000 during the past year. They were distinguished on that occasion by a most popular member of the Royal family. (Hear, hear.) The Navy had always been famous for its loyalty and devotion to the throne—(cheers)—and therefore they welcomed with gratitude the benign and encouraging presence of the Duchess of Teck. (Hear, hear.) The boys were about to enter the noblest service in the world. (Hear, hear.) Upon their devotion to the service our Navy largely depended—(hear, hear)—and the maintenance of our independence at home, and the greatness and power of the empire depended on it. (Cheers.) He spoke of his recent visit to Portsmouth, and commended the Victory to the greatest of modern warships—the Benbow. He said that great ship of 10,000 tons possessed only ten guns, one of which, however, would fire a shot of 1,800 pounds, creating inconceivable havoc wherever it exploded. One shot from that ship was heavier than the whole broadside of the 90 guns of the Victory. The ship would also travel at the rate of about 16 knots an hour, and had solid armour plates from 14in. to 18in. thick, as well as large torpedoes. He reminded the boys that in spite of all the wonderful developments in naval architecture, the genius and energy of man remained unchanged, and it controlled all these enormous forces. Science and naval organisation were progressing, and it rested with the courage, fidelity, and patriotism of Englishmen in the future to determine what should be the issue of our great conflicts in the future. (Cheers.) The boys afterwards danced a hornpipe in the grounds before the duchess and her attendants, which was much applauded. Her royal highness then left, amid the cheers of those assembled.

IMPUDENT FRAUDS.

At Canterbury last week the trial took place of one of the principal employes, named Allen, of Messrs. Higham and Hunt, a large drapery, tailoring, and furnishing firm, for having carried on during the last two months or more a systematic robbery of goods belonging to his employers. The prisoner, who is well known in Canterbury, had charge of the furnishing department, and through the medium of the *Exchange and Mart* exchanged carpets, plush, &c., for other articles. Failing to despatch a carpet with the required promptitude to a person in Essex a superintendent of police was communicated with, and goods to the value of £20 were found in Allen's apartments. The accused pleaded guilty, and in passing a sentence of six months' imprisonment, with hard labour, the mayor expressed the regret of the bench that facilities should exist for goods being so easily disposed of by persons who were not shopkeepers.

About eleven o'clock on Saturday a little girl, aged 6 years, living at Wick, near Chichester, was crossing the footpath on the railway, when an express train from Portsmouth dashed along, running over her and killing her instantly.

Mr. Danford Thomas was notified on Saturday of the sudden death of Richard Mabley, aged 29, a smith employed in the locomotive department of the Great Western Railway, and living at 61, Edbrooke-road, North Kensington. Mabley, in the early morning, was hurrying to his work, and on arriving at the door was seen to stagger and fall down. On being taken to St. Mary's Hospital life was pronounced extinct.

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

King Louis of Portugal will at the commencement of August proceed on a tour abroad.

The Leamington magistrates have held that a horse used by a horse dealer in breaking in horses is exempt from the license-tax.

One of Bismarck's admirers is, at least, a practical man. He has presented the Iron Chancellor with a yacht.

Can Siberia be so bad? The number of colonists who voluntarily settle in that part of the Russian empire has risen to 40,000 a year.

A Times Alexandria telegram states that the area in Egypt under cotton cultivation this year exceeds that of last year by 20 per cent.

Elizabeth Evans, a single middle-aged woman, has obtained 47s. at Shropshire Assizes, for breach of promise of marriage by Owen Owens, foreman of the Liverpool Waterworks at Llanwr.

A fire broke out on Thursday morning at the North British Distillery Company's premises, George, near Edinburgh. A large amount of damage was done.

Several burglaries have been committed in Dublin during the past week, and, as the consequence of extra police vigilance, eight arrests have been made.

The King of Roumania is a believer in the hydropathic treatment. His Majesty is proceeding to Grefenberg, in Austrian Silesia, in order to submit himself to it.

Reports continue to reach Suakin of the march of the Khalifa's forces at Darfour, and the Khalifa is evidently in desperate straits.

A Parliamentary committee reports that the staff to the solicitor to the Treasury Department is decidedly in excess of what is necessary, that many members of the staff are paid too highly, and that the working hours are too few.

The relatives of "Money" Miller, thought to be the wealthiest man in Victoria, are disappointed. He was believed to be worth 25,000,000. His wealth is now found to have been only a paltry 11,300,000.

The late Sir John Swale, the holder of a baronetcy created in 1660, was the owner of the Royal Oak Hotel, Knaresborough. The first baronet, in the House of Commons, proposed the restoration of Charles II.

The Postmaster-General has issued a notice stating that on and after the 1st of August private letter-boxes for use during the night may be rented at all post-offices at which a night staff is on duty, and at which there is a delivery of letters to tallers during the day.

Serious floods and thunderstorms are reported from Scotland. In Strathcathie two stone bridges were washed away. At Airdrie a mine was killed and another injured by lightning; and at Larbert, in Stirlingshire, an hotel was struck and damaged.

Prince Albert Victor unveiled a jubilee statue of the Queen at Bristol on Wednesday, and received the freedom of the city. He was subsequently entertained at luncheon by the Mayor, and in the afternoon distributed the prizes to the Naval Volunteers. Miserable weather prevailed.

At Kae-yu (Yangchow) when a widow marries again, she presents the temple of the tutelary god of the city with a new wooden threshold, believing that she will thus avert the doom with which widows who marry again are threatened in the next world—of being tied with their arms round a red-hot iron pillar.

The last American notion is to carry pent-up gas in your pocket, in the shape of a patented torch, about six inches long, and made of a secret composition thoroughly permeated with gas. It is stated that when lighted these sticks give off a large odorless flame, which burns for about half an hour.

A manifesto has been issued by the Ukraine National Committee, calling the attention of the Great Powers to the oppressive rule of the Russian Government over the people of the Ukraine, numbering 25,000,000 of souls, and praying for aid to throw off the yoke of the "orthodox" Tartars who style themselves "Great Russians."

To make an improved approach to the sands and to connect the two cliffs, it has been decided to construct a new marine drive at Ramsgate. Favorable arrangements have been made with the Board of Trade with regard to certain property required for the improvement, and the whole scheme, which will entirely alter the front aspect of the town, will cost £250,000.

The home-coming of Sergeant Ford of Tipton, the winner of the St. George's Vase, was marked by a tragic and melancholy incident. It had been an exciting evening, the drill hall had resounded with the enthusiastic cheers of the people, all was enthusiasm. At the close Major Round was ascending the steps of the hall, when he fell down in a fit of apoplexy and expired.

A murderous attack has been made on a lady named Hair, at a farmhouse near Kinnross. A woman matched up Mrs. Hair's child, and upon the mother attempting to rescue it, the woman stabbed her repeatedly with a pruning-knife. The servants found Mrs. Hair lying in a pool of blood. Her assailant was apprehended. No motive is yet assigned for the outrage.

Ho Poe is a sedate daily paper of Shanghai. Here is an extract from a recent number:—"At Kae-Ju, in the Yangchow Prefecture, Kiangsu, at the third watch of the night, the people heard a sound of laughter from the sky. Opening their doors and looking out, they saw the sky had a bright white appearance all round, with red streaks and a sound descended like human laughter."

So Miss Ida Lena Cooke, the daughter of the enterprising circus proprietor, has been married to her lotario, the wealthy young American who claims kinship with a few of the most notable men. Mr. Dodge, the young lady (with whom, it will be remembered, he previously eloped, his lady-love, however, being recaptured) to the altar at Edinburgh. The bride is 17, the bridegroom 19.

The wife of a painter named Norman living at Fratton, Portsmouth, gave birth on Sunday to four children, three girls and a boy, of whom only one, a girl, is now alive. Mrs. Norman, who is about 40 years of age, is the mother of twenty-one children, of whom nine are now alive. She had previously had twins, and seven years ago she earned the Queen's bounty, giving birth to triplets.

For doing wilful damage at the Lefevre Arms, Lefevre-road, a man named William Sutton was at the Worship-street Police Court, fined 10s., and 50s. the amount of the damage, or a month's imprisonment. At Westminster a woman was sent to prison for a month for breaking a window at the Gun Tavern, Piccadilly. At Hammermith a fine of 4s. was inflicted upon a plasterer for assaulting Mr. George Bell, the landlord of the Lancaster Hotel, Notting Hill.

At the People's Palace this week, the annual show of donkeys and ponies belonging to costermongers and other street traders was held. Last year there were 190 entries; the number of exhibits now is 117. No prizes are awarded, but certificates are given to the owners of all animals which show evidences of good grooming and of being in sound condition for work, the object being not so much to encourage the breeding of prize animals as to place a premium upon their kind treatment.

It is in Utah where the tithe system attains its perfection. Suppose that a Mormon farmer raises 100 tons of hay and 5,000 bushels of coarse grain, he draws 10 tons of hay and 500 bushels of grain to the local tithing-house. The Mormon farmer then takes stock of the feed he has on hand and decides that he has sufficient to fatten 100 steers. He buys the cattle or goes in debt for them. He feeds them to fatness. When they are sold the whole value of the money received is

tithing, and he gets it, too. What do the Welsh farmers think of that?

The Wesleyan Conference at Cambridge, Cornwall, has elected the Rev. Joseph Bush, of London, the president for the ensuing year.

The Duke of Newcastle contradicts the report that he is about to join the Royalist Church. The rumour, he says, is as false as it is malicious.

Fifteen hundred persons have been rendered homeless by the destruction of the coal-mining town of Roslyn, Washington Territory.

Upwards of 5,000 Rhondalla Valley miners have been thrown idle by a strike of underground hauliers.

Lord Herries, hitherto a staunch supporter of Mr. Gladstone, has publicly announced his conversion to Unionist principles.

Sir Morell Mackenzie, it is stated, having completed his report upon the case of the late Emperor Frederick, only awaits the Empress Victoria's permission to publish it.

The Emperor William took leave of the Czar on Tuesday, after an inspection of the Russian fleet, and sailed in the Imperial yacht for Stockholm, on a visit to the King of Sweden.

Mr. William Downing, an Arbourthorne farmer, being anxious about the weather and his crops, rose, opened the window, and accidentally fell out and was killed.

The Exchequer receipts between 1st of April and the 21st inst., amounted to £24,859,531, as compared with £24,920,247 in the corresponding period of the last financial year; and the expenditure to £29,440,453, as against £29,181,827.

In about three weeks the direct railway service between Vienna and Constantinople will be inaugurated. The train is timed to arrive at Vienna in forty-six hours, the return journey being covered in six hours less.

A verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown has been returned at the inquest on the man who was mysteriously shot at Tunbridge Wells, under circumstances reported in the People a short time since.

Mrs. Belva Lockwood, who has been nominated for the American Presidency on the ticket of the Equal Rights Party, is 55 years of age. She began school-teaching when she was 15, and studied law, and was admitted to the Bar when she was 43.

How many know that the Black Prince Tavern in Chandos-street, which has just been closed, was closely connected with the early life of Charles Dickens? "The stones in the street," wrote Dickens, "may be smoothed by my very small feet going to it at dinner-time and back again."

France's commerce seems on the whole in a scarcely healthier state than its politics. Comparing the imports of the first half of 1888 with the first half of 1887 there is an increase of 832,000 francs; the exports, however, show a decrease of 28,053,000 francs.

The "secret honeymoon" is the latest whim of New York Society. The groom leaves the route of the wedding journey entirely with the best man. Neither he nor the bride has the least idea where it is to be spent until he enters the steamer or train and opens an envelope.

The third annual flower show and fête held to encourage window gardening among the working classes of the neighbourhood, took place on Tuesday in the large field adjoining Lambeth Palace. The flowers, which made a very creditable show, comprised about 700 exhibits. Mr. Benson in the evening distributed sixty money prizes.

The inquest into the death of the four persons killed in the railway accident at Hyde Junction, near Manchester, previously reported in the People, has been concluded. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and recommended that communication cords should be attached to all passenger trains.

Some boys were playing at Sunderland, near the railway line which leads to Newcastle, when one of them named Jackson, in attempting to walk on the span of the bridge, stumbled and fell on to the line. He was too much stunned to rise, and a coal train came past and cut the little fellow's head completely off.

At Marlborough-street Police Court Le Comte Serritorri, attaché to the Italian Embassy, was summoned by a cabman for a shilling, balance of a cab fare. Mr. Hannay informed the complainant that as the defendant was attached to a foreign embassy he had no jurisdiction, and he had better apply to the Italian Ambassador.

A number of members of the Huguenot Society of London visited Norwich this week, and were received by members of the town council. The Guildhall, the Castle, and other places of interest in Norwich were inspected, and in the afternoon a special service was held in the cathedral, when a sermon was preached in French by the Rev. J. Lepelletier.

At the annual meeting this week of the Royal College of Music, Prince Christian presiding, it was stated that the institution was progressing very satisfactorily. Mr. Samson Fox, of Leeds, has presented the college with £200,000, with which a new building will be erected upon a site that has been given by the commissioners of the exhibition of 1851.

On Tuesday morning cries for help were heard from the Victoria Park bathing lake. Immediately a Mr. Potter ran on to the diving-board, and, without waiting to divest himself of his clothing, plunged in and swam to the assistance of an unfortunate man, named Holmes, and effected a very creditable rescue amid loud applause from a few spectators.

A Pietmaritzburg telegram states that operations have been commenced against the insurgent Zulus by a coast column under the command of Major M'Kean, John Dunn accompanying the force with a native contingent. Dinizulu's force was estimated at 2,000 men, but his Usutu followers are stated to have deserted. The position is believed to have greatly improved.

The bath and grounds of Ashby-de-la Zouch Spa were formally opened by the mayor this week. The baths were originally erected by the Marquis of Hastings, and are supplied with saline and mineral water pumped from a depth of 1,000 feet. They have been reopened to commemorate the Queen's jubilee, and are part of a scheme for reviving this historic spa.

At Westminster Police Court a carpenter, named William Herbert, has been committed to the Central Criminal Court on a charge of burglary at the Aquarium Tavern, Tothill-street, Westminster, and stealing therefrom between 27 and 28. He had been formerly employed at the tavern. His only defence was that he was tempted to break into the place by the weakness of the door of the house.

A centenary dinner in aid of the philanthropic society, under whose management a farm school at Redhill is carried on, took place on Tuesday night at the Hotel Métropole. The Earl of Anslow presided, and read a telegram from the Prince of Wales stating that the society had his best wishes. His lordship said that the Government recognised the defects in the existing law with regard to reformatory schools, and the desirability of removing those defects.

The bishops reassembled at Lambeth Palace on Tuesday, and after Litany in the chapel, at eleven o'clock, discussed the reports of the committees appointed on the various subjects debated in the first week of the month. Nearly every English bishop was present, and the new Suffragan Bishops of Bedford and Leicester took their seats for the first time, as did the Bishop of Nova Scotia and one or two prelates who had not arrived for the first group of sessions.

At Southwark a barmaid was charged the other day with stealing 12s. the money of her employer, Mr. Brooker, of the Royal Fort Tavern, Hermondey. The takings at the bar unaccountably decreased, and the prisoner was spoken to about it. There was no improvement, and then money was marked and passed over the bar by a detective. On being searched the marked money was found on the prisoner. The prosecutor did not press the charge, and it appeared that the prisoner's antecedents were highly respectable.

A former employer stated that he would take the girl back into his service, and she was discharged. Jennie Jenkins, of Orlando, Fla., is 105. The old lady chews tobacco.

Lord Randolph Churchill intends remaining in the Pyrenees about five weeks.

The Central Asian Railway is to be extended to Herat, via Sarakhs.

The man who was mysteriously shot at near the Baltic Saw Mills, Tunbridge Wells, is dead.

More than 23,000 have been stolen from the post office at Havre in Poen. Several arrests have been made.

Australians fancy our Herefords. There are some commissioners over here from the colony who are buying the best cattle of the breed in the market.

A friend—who does good anonymously, and doesn't desire it—has sent £3,500 to the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen for a second hospital ship.

The high sheriff of Lancashire has fixed Tuesday, August 7th, as the date for the execution of Jackson, the murderer of Warder Webb in Strangeways Gaol.

Despite the fog of some parts of the English coast last week, the number of shipwrecks was not greatly increased, being twenty-four, of which nine were British-owned vessels. Ten lives in all were lost.

Acting on suggestions made by the Imperial to the Canadian Government, the chief analyst of the Dominion has analysed Canadian cheese, and reports it to be perfectly pure and free from all adulteration.

Seven men have been suffocated by a fire which has occurred in a disused shaft in the Magny coalpit, Montceau-les-Mines, France. Twenty-two children have been rendered orphans through the disaster.

Three crowded boats, containing fugitives who left the island near Dalarna Island, on the Nile, on the 20th inst., during the attack made by the Dervishes, subsequently sank. The people on board, numbering 150, were drowned.

A wake was held over the body of Mrs. Malley, a labourer's wife, at Wolverhampton. A scene of great dissipation followed, and during the orgy the candles at the bedfoot were upset, the bed-clothes ignited, and the corpse badly charred.

The body of a man, name unknown, was found near Uxbridge, on the down line of the Great Western Railway, the head being twenty yards off. The deceased was apparently about 50 years of age. He is 5ft. 6in. high and of sallow complexion.

It is significantly announced from New York that the executive committee of the Irish Parliament there have announced that they intend to send a further sum of \$5,000 to Mr. Parnell, "with assurances of renewed confidence in his policy."

A Cairo telegram states that a messenger from Omdurman reports that the Khalifa Abdullah, having heard of the White Pasha in the Bahri-Gaselle, intended to march against him. The messenger adds that the pasha is believed to be Emin.

On the arrival of a London train at the South-Eastern Railway Station at Dover on Tuesday, the engine was found bespattered with blood. A search was made, and portions of a human body were discovered on the line near the Channel Tunnel Works.

While John Gibson, a constable, was going his rounds in Washington-street, Glasgow, three unknown roughs rushed at him and kicked him so brutally that he lay in the street, and, on being conveyed to the infirmary, was pronounced to be in a dangerous state.

It is understood that as a result of the communications between this country and Turkey in relation to the forts which the latter, contrary to treaty engagements, has been erecting on the Tigris, an understanding has been arrived at, Turkey agreeing to construct no further works.

It is stated that the Conservatives and Unionists of the Northham Parliamentary Division intend to bring forward at the next election the Marquis of Hartington as a candidate in opposition to Mr. A. H. Dyke Acland, M.P., to endeavour to wrest the seat from the Gladstonian party.

The benchers of the four Inns of Court have declined to accede to the request of the Incorporated Law Society that solicitors should be placed on the same footing as barristers with regard to passing from one branch of the profession to the other.

A coroner's jury at Bolton has returned a verdict of wilful murder against Margaret Davies, who threw a lighted paraffin lamp at Isabella M'Donoghue, a young married woman, at Bolton, a short time back, inflicting terrible injuries that caused her death.

At the Malton Agricultural Society's Show, one of the largest and best collections of horses ever seen at a district exhibition in England, and almost equalling the Royal and county shows, took place on Wednesday. The quality of the horses, particularly the roadsters, coaching horses, and hunters, was remarkably high.

The return just made to the Northern Iron Trade Conciliation Board for the past two months shows a very gratifying improvement in the iron trade, the output of rails, plates, bars, and angles being considerably larger than in the corresponding period of last year, and the average price reaching 24 1/2 lbs. per ton, which is 1s. 6d. per ton higher than previous prices.

A meeting of the Board of Missions of the Province of Canterbury was held this week in St. John's College, the Primate presiding. A large number of American and colonial bishops attended, and the subject of foreign missions was discussed at some length. It was strongly urged that information was much needed at home as to the needs of places abroad.

Mr. E. R. Burstal, civil engineer employed by the corporation of Oxford in connection with the waterworks, sued Mr. Thomas Hawkey, in the Queen's Bench Division, for £284, being two-fifths of fees paid to defendant, which plaintiff claimed under an agreement for the aid he had given in works. Defendant denied the agreement, and, after a two days' trial, the jury found for plaintiff for the amount claimed.

The Incorporated Society of Authors, on Wednesday night, gave a dinner to American men and women of letters at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, in recognition of their efforts in the cause of international copyright. Professor Bryce, M.P., presided, and the Hon. J. Russell Lowell, replying on behalf of "Literature," referred to the friendly relations between England and America.

The German Emperor on Monday witnessed a sham fight at Krasnoe Selo in the presence of the Czar and a brilliant gathering. The troops consisted of fifty-two squadrons of cavalry, with artillery in proportion. After the operations the Grand Duke Nicholas told his staff that the Emperor William had charged him to express his hearty thanks to the troops for the great pleasure they had afforded him.

At Wrexham, Benjamin Roberts and Peter Jones, miners, have been remanded for a week, charged with poaching and murderously assaulting gamekeepers. It is alleged that the prisoners were caught snaring rabbits in Plaspower Park, near Wrexham, by Mr. Fitzhugh's keepers. A fierce encounter ensued, during which the keepers were severely mauled with bludgeons, and only succeeded in capturing the two men after a desperate resistance.

A remarkable case of somnambulism is reported from Bath. A servant-girl named Dade, about two a.m., walked from her bed in the house where she is in service into the street with only her night-clothes on. She proceeded to the house of a friend, and knocked at the door for a considerable time. Not being answered, the girl walked about two miles into the country, where she was stopped by two men, and conveyed to

Bath Hospital. She awoke after being placed in a bed.

It is expected that there will be a deficit in next year's finance in India.

Patrick Casey, a shoemaker, has left Blackburn on his way to America, having, it is said, successfully established his claim to a fortune of £20,000.

Two individuals have been arrested at East-chuk on a charge of plotting against the life of Prince Ferdinand.

Turkey has offered excuses to Russia for the non-payment of her debt, and has promised to be more regular in payments hereafter. But the Porte abstains from giving any fresh guarantee.

A telegram from Ajaccio states that the notorious bandit, Albertini, of Casamicciola, has been killed in the Nicolo Hills, after a desperate resistance to the gendarmes sent to capture him.

In Paris a Health Exhibition, to which is added another showing various means of saving life at sea, has been opened by the President of the Republic at the Palais de l'Industrie.

In consequence of the illness of the Duchess Paul Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the departure of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Cowes on Thursday was postponed.

An explosion occurred on board the steam trawler Proceed, of Yarmouth, in the North Sea, damaging the vessel and severely injuring the master (William Sisson), Ernest Sanderson (mate), and two seamen.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone on Wednesday celebrated their golden wedding. They held a reception at the residence of Lord Spencer, where they were presented with their portraits and with an address.

The annual prize festival of the Royal Normal School and Academy of Music for the Blind was held at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, Viscount Midleton presiding. The prizes were distributed to the successful pupils.

James Smollett, a Dundee blacksmith, was visiting the Glasgow Exhibition. He had been eating a slice of stewed beef, and a portion of the meat setting into his windpipe, he fell back in his chair, and soon after expired.

An old resident of Idaho about a year ago willed to his only son \$150,000. About a fortnight ago the son was arrested in New York city as a vagrant. He says that gambling and drink caused him to lose the vast amount left him.

While a young man named Matthews, son of a salesman in the Meat Market, Smithfield, was cutting some meat his knife slipped, and entering his groin, made a wound which caused his death in a short time.

Two men, of Fouldarrig, met on the road near Listowel, and an old quarrel was revived. They fought desperately, and one of them, who got the worst of it, was found some time afterwards bleeding and unconscious and was taken home. The other man absconded.

At Liverpool, on Wednesday, the annual meeting of the Royal Liver Friendly Society was held. The premium income for the year 1887 amounted to £232,606, or an increase of £13,336 over 1886, and the claims paid to £216,393. The report was adopted, and a committee was appointed to consider the revision of the rules.

A cashier, named Victor Emile Bonlanger, has just been condemned by the Rheims Assize Court to five years' imprisonment for having robbed his employer, M. Rogelet, of a sum of 9,000 francs. The case had all the more interest attached to it, because when M. Rogelet discovered he had been thus ruined by his cashier he committed suicide.

The books of the Paris Morgue show a steady yearly increase in the number of dead bodies received; 400 corpses were brought in 1830. In 1870 the number had risen from 400 to 800; then it fell in 1874 to 550; rose again from 807 in 1880 to 920 in 1881, and from 879 in 1882 to the unprecedented figure of 944 in 1883—the results of wilful murder, accidental death, or suicide.

The Rev. J. R. Diggle (chairman of the London School Board), Mr. Helby, Miss Davenport Hill, and other members on Wednesday inspected a quantity of needlework, at the School Board offices, done by children of all ages attending the London Board schools and at the Pupil Teachers' centre, previous to its being despatched to the Melbourne Exhibition.

The fifth and final report of the Select Committee on the Army Estimates recommends a simpler audit of military accounts, reduction of the economy in the staff of the War Office, judicious employment of tenders, in which they state the exercise of a moderate degree of common sense would prevent great waste of time and money.

The annual exhibition of the Surrey Floricultural Society was opened on Wednesday by Mr. J. Blundell Maple, M.P., in the grounds of Casino House, Herne Hill, lent for the purpose by Mr. J. H. Gower. The exhibits were of an exceptionally high order of merit, but the bad weather was greatly against the success of the show, and but few visitors were present.

The racing yacht Minerva, built at Fairlie for Mr. Tweed of New York and Boston, left the Clyde for Boston on Wednesday. The yacht, which is fifteen tons burden, is to race in American waters, and will be sailed by a crew of four. Captain Barr, who is in command, will take a southern course, and expects to make the journey in about thirty days.

A prize fight took place in Belfast on Tuesday night for £10 a side between John Seenan, the Belfast champion, and Jack M'Gregor, the 10st. champion. Both men were in good condition, but Seenan was a stone heavier than his opponent, and having the best of it was declared the winner, M'Gregor failing to come up to time when the ninth round was called. The fight took place without any interruption.

Colonel Duncan, M.P., in moving a vote of confidence in the Government and of Mr. Balfour's conduct with regard to Ireland, at a Conservative demonstration on Wednesday at Tully Forest, near Bishopscourt, said the Chief Secretary had behaved in a most chivalrous manner. The Government had done their duty to Ireland, and brighter times were dawning there. The resolution was carried.

A Rome correspondent states that in many parts of Italy the season continues most extraordinary for the time of the year. Genoa and neighbouring places, which usually derive great benefit from the number of visitors during the summer months, have been deserted owing to the bad weather. From want of heat the crops are not so promising as usual, and summer in many places has not commenced yet.

A Conservative gathering took place at Orsett, Essex, on Wednesday, in the grounds of the Rev. Canon Whittington, under the auspices of the Gray and Ravett Habitation. Despite the fact that there was a large muster from the surrounding districts, speeches were made in support of the Government and Mr. Balfour's Irish administration by Canon Whittington, Mr. Theobald, M.P., and others.

An important addition was made to the Royal Navy on Wednesday by the delivery from the contractors of the new first-class battleship Sans Pareil, which has been built by the Thames Ironworks Company. She has a displacement of 10,470 tons, and is fitted with engines of 12,000 horse-power. She and her sister ship the Victoria are the most powerful vessels ever built for the Royal Navy, with the exception of the Nile and Trafalgar.

James Cassidy, an Irish labourer, has been committed for trial at Preston, for feloniously wounding Mary Ann Miller. The prisoner, who had been lodging with the miller since Whit Sunday, came home, fastened the door, took hold of Mr. Miller, threw him on the table on his back, and began pounding his face with his fist. Mrs. Miller ran towards the door for help, whereupon the prisoner took up a table-knife and stabbed her on the right temple. The woman became unconscious, and Cassidy kicked her as she lay on the ground.

A constable who came on the scene was also struck and kicked by the prisoner.

The French Government are about to add tuberculosis to the list of the diseases included in the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.

A young whale, twenty feet in length, has been captured on the foreshore at Bennington, near Boston.

A young man named Gooding, a visitor from London, was drowned at Ramsgate on Thursday, while bathing.

A movement is on foot to form a Volunteer Corps in connection with the South-Eastern Railway Company's employees at Ashford.

Wednesday was the anniversary of the birthday of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, who completed her 51st year, she having been born July 25th 1797.

Three little fellows of Perth—two named King and the other Spier—were wading in the Tay. They were carried off by an under-current. One body has been recovered.

Berlin rumour has it that Queen Victoria will, in the autumn, spend three weeks with her daughter, the Empress Frederick, at Baden-Baden.

The death-rate in London last week when the deaths were 539 below the average for the corresponding weeks of the last ten years, was 15s. per 1,000.

It was intimated at Bow-street Police Court on Wednesday that Mr. Vaughan had consented to state a case on points of law raised in connection with charges arising from the recent proceedings in Trafalgar-square.

Five battalions of the Foot Guards were inspected on Wednesday in Hyde Park by the Commander-in-Chief, who was accompanied by the Prince of Wales, and attended by a brilliant staff.

The Royal Horticultural Society held a flower show, on Tuesday, in the Drill Hall, Buckingham Gate, including a display of carnations and pinks, for which a number of prizes were awarded.

At Brighton the other day a butcher named Mulligan was fined 25s. for having diseased meat for the purpose of serving it out to the men of the 14th Hussars. There had been previous complaints about the meat.

Mr. E. Stanhope, the Secretary for War, speaking at Alford on Wednesday night, touched upon the Local Government Bill, the Railway Charges Bill, and other measures, and justified Mr. Balfour in the endeavours he was making to promote peace in Ireland.

As Feudal Lords of the Prussian Domain of Krotoszyn, the Princes of Thurn and Taxis have to pay one million marks on the death of every King of Prussia. The death of the Emperor William and Frederick had therefore cost them the enormous sum of two million marks.

At Aston, near Birmingham, Walter Hayling, a soldier, has been committed to the assizes on the charge of wilful murder. The prisoner, when in London some weeks ago, confessed that he had pushed a man into a reservoir. The case has been reported in the People.

The fastest woman bicyclist in Brooklyn, Mrs. Oakley, rides the newly-introduced lady's bicycle. She wears the uniform of the Brooklyn Ladies' Tricycle Club, which is a short, full skirt, a flannel, habit basque with standing collar of the same, with the letters H. L. T. C. embroidered in convenient place somewhere.

Many Jewish families residing at Helsingfors received notice to leave Russia. Some of them, says a correspondent, have to depart immediately, but others have been allowed a certain time. They will probably proceed to Palestine, where the rich foreign Jews have bought land on which they are to be settled.

Several persons connected with a "long firm" have been arrested at Budapest, after a denunciation of merchants had waited on the Prefect of Police to draw his

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

a hydrophobia was
d at Liverpool on
years of age, who
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by the animal, and

A BURGLAR IN A TANK.
Early on Wednesday morning the premises of the Magnum Mineral Water Works at Loughborough junction were entered by burglars, of whom fell into a 10ft. tank which was then half full of water. When discovered at after six o'clock the man was half dead, he had the greatest difficulty in keeping his head above water. On being rescued he became sensible, and after examination by a doctor.

A young woman named Pike, in a thick fog, stepped on the platform at Chelsea Station and was injured by a passenger train. She brought an action against the West London Extension Railway, alleging that the absence of additional porters and lights in a fog was negligence. The Divisional Court held this was not negligence. The Divisional Court came to the same decision in *Wicks*, and it was, on Thursday, confirmed in the Appeal Court.

DR. LALOR'S PHOSPHODYNE
LABORATORY, HAMPSTEAD, LONDON

On Wednesday evening, a lighterman, Danby, was blown off a barge on the Thanet Rotherhithe, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered.

and "CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLEED MIX-
ture" in the Bottle, with it which none are getting

FRIDAY'S PARLIAMENT, HOUSE OF LORDS. Indecent Publications.

Lord Mount-Temple called attention to the impunity with which large numbers of indecent publications and photographs are sold or distributed to young persons. His lordship asked whether the public prosecutor might be instructed to take proceedings in the more important cases of the breach of the law. There were newspapers which made money by printing indecent matter. Then there were translations from French works, including some very hideous novels by a man named Zola. He hoped the matter would receive more attention. Lord Mount-Temple said that the noble lord had brought the subject before the House. Such literature was distributed for the purpose of corrupting the minds of young girls; for the purpose of misleading young men; and for making money by the sale of improper appliances, &c. Anything that tended to undermine the moral fibre of the people, was hurtful to the nation.—Lord St. Leonards did not think there was a more prolific source of corruption than that under discussion.—Lord Brownlow, replying on behalf of the Government, said the practice when the attention of the Home Office was called to the publications of police, who took the necessary steps. He could assure their lordships that the question was looked upon as an important one.—The Lord Chancellor explained that the Attorney-General was the public prosecutor, and might institute a prosecution if he thought it was necessary. But he (the Lord Chancellor) thought it was unwise to undertake a prosecution where there was doubt as to proof, as it often gave an injurious notoriety to the subject.

Richmond Park for the Volunteers.

Lord Wintage drew attention to a petition which had been presented to the First Commissioner of Works, with reference to the granting of a portion of Richmond Park as a site for the annual meeting of the National Rifle Association. He hoped that if the decision as to whether the Volunteers were to have the use of Richmond Park was in their favour, the Government and the Commander-in-Chief would assist them in furthering the objects of the Rifle Association. They asked to have the use of 230 acres in Richmond Park for shooting purposes for a fortnight in the year, and he contended on national grounds that it ought to be granted. He believed that the range was as safe as any that could be obtained in this country. He stigmatised as a calamity the assertion that the 250,000 Volunteers in the country would lay down their arms if the use of Richmond Park was not granted for their annual shooting. The petition in favour of the use of Richmond Park was signed by sixty-three members of the House of Lords, and 102 members of the House of Commons.—Viscount Bury supported the views of Lord Wintage.—The Earl of Meath opposed the Richmond Park scheme, believing that an equally suitable site might be obtained elsewhere without interfering with a public park.—The Duke of Cambridge denied that he was the person who had led the opposition to the Richmond Park scheme. He was as great a friend to the National Rifle Association as the noble lord; and if he was convinced that no other places but Wimbledon or Richmond could be obtained he might have approved of them, but he could not imagine that in this country it was impossible to get another site where the shooting could be conducted in the same manner as at present. When the Queen was asked by Lord Wintage about Richmond Park she said she had no objection to its being used, provided the authorities who had to deal with the matter were under the impression that no evil would be done to the public. Her Majesty had put the question to herself, being the Ranger, and upon consideration he thought the park was undesirable as to Lord Wintage. This decision he had communicated to Lord Wintage. He also told him that shooting should take place away from villas, gardens, and residences. For twenty-eight years he had allowed the shooting to take place at Wimbledon, and therefore he could not be said to have been very grasping.—After some remarks from Lord Wemyss, Lord Chelmsford said he thought it would not affect the character of rifle shooting in this country if the Rifle Association died to-morrow.—Lord Salisbury said he could not give any definite answer to the question of his noble friend as the matter would have to be carefully considered by the Government before they could give their decision. He could not but think that the tone of the speech of Lord Wintage, who represented the Rifle Association, was unfair, as he appeared to think that the position of affairs was the result of hostility to and want of confidence in the services rendered by the Volunteers. He did not think there was any want of appreciation on the part of the people of this country. The Rifle Association had been driven from Wimbledon not through hostility, but because of the causes of action which were going on, owing to the fact that the ranges of rifles were being extended. The responsibility of deciding this question would rest with the Government. Her Majesty's name had been mentioned, but in this matter, as in all others, she would leave the responsibility with her advisers.

Leap from a Balloon.

Earl Brownlow, in reply to a question by the Earl of Miltown, said that the attention of the Home Secretary had been called to the announcement that a Professor Baldwin would leap a thousand feet from a balloon at Alexandra Park on Saturday. The police had been told to make inquiries, and to warn people who would be held responsible for the serious consequences that might ensue. There was no legislation to prevent an adult from indulging in foolish and dangerous feats. There had, however, been cases where such feats had been prevented, as when Blondin was going to wheel a child in a barrow along a rope at some considerable height from the ground.

The Local Government Bill.

The report stage of the Local Government Bill was resumed.—On the 31st clause, an amendment, moved by Mr. Lawson, giving the county council power to promote and oppose bills in Parliament, was negatived by 154 to 158.—On the 30th clause, Lord Derby, Mr. Shaw, Mr. J. L. Wharton, Mr. F. Mowatt, Mr. Joseph B. Henley, were appointed commissioners under the Act. A large number of amendments were disposed of, and the consideration of the bill was amended was completed at half past twelve o'clock. The bill was then recommitted for the insertion of a few formal amendments, and these having been reported to the House and agreed to, Mr. Ritchie moved the third reading of the bill.—Sir William Harcourt congratulated the House on having reached that stage. All must recognise the ability, temper, conciliatory demeanour, and strong common-sense of Mr. Ritchie in carrying a measure of this magnitude through the House.—The bill was then read a third time amid cheers.

Arresting Members of Parliament.

Mr. J. E. Ellis asked what was the object and who was responsible for the placing this week of a number of detectives within the precincts of the Houses of Parliament; and whether it was correct that the authorities of Scotland Yard had decided that arrests should be made after dark. Mr. Matthews: I am informed by the Commissioner of police that no extra detectives have been placed within the precincts of the House, as it is stated in the second part of the question.—Mr. H. Wilson: Are we to understand that there are no extra detectives about?—Mr. Matthews: There have been for a considerable time past detectives stationed in the neighbourhood of the House.—Mr. Sexton asked if the Government would facilitate the passing of a bill to remove from Irish members the special penalty that seemed to attach to them (of being arrested in

stead of summoned) for performing their Parliamentary duties.—Mr. R. B. Shaw asked if there was any difficulty in a summons being issued in Ireland and sent over to England in the usual way.—Mr. Matthews said the jurisdiction of a magistrate was confined to his country by statute.—Mr. Matthews, in answer to Mr. J. E. Ellis, stated that there was the same force of law in Ireland as in England. He said that a summons issued in Ireland would not be of such legal stringency in England. Where a person was residing in Ireland, however, and only came here to attend to his Parliamentary duties, would there be any objection to issue a summons in Ireland, acquainting the particular member with the fact, and give him an opportunity of attending there?—Mr. Balfour did not think there was any precedent for the course suggested, and if it was supposed that members of that House would attend to such a notification, he was sorry to say that the experience he had had in such matters was that they would act directly the opposite to what was required. (Hear, hear.)

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THE DEPRESSION IN THE HOP INDUSTRY.

The following letter has been addressed by the First Lord of the Treasury to Colonel Brookfield, M.P. for the Rye Division of Sussex:—"House of Commons, 19th July, 1888.—My dear Mr. Brookfield, I have mentioned your request, as I do, colleagues, and they feel great sympathy, for the industry which is so seriously affected, but they do not think they could now undertake on behalf of the Government to consent to the appointment of a select committee on the condition of the hop industry next session. It is condition of the hop industry that a case should be stated to the House on a motion to be made on Tuesday or Friday, which would afford some indication of the scope and objects of the inquiry contemplated, and the Government would listen to their friends behind them with sympathy and interest, and they would gladly concur in the appointment of a committee if the course proposed appeared to be a practical one after debate. Yours very truly, W. H. SMITH."—In view of this communication, and of the fact that Mr. Brookfield has urged that a day for a motion on the field of the hop industry, which has afterwards been taken by the Government, the hon. member has urged that an opportunity for discussion might still be afforded during the present session. Failing this, it is his intention, with the approval of other members interested in the question, to ensure a full discussion upon the whole subject of the hop industry at the commencement of the autumn session.

The Present Outlook.

The *Kentish Observer* on Thursday says:—"Although the weather during the last five or six days has been more suitable for the hop plants, it has not improved to the extent that could be desired, and the gardens are not looking so well as they ought to do at the end of July. There is a good deal of mould about, and fly and lice are prevalent in many grounds, the succulent state of the bine being conducive to their propagation. East Kent is decidedly better off than the other divisions of the great hop country. Mid Kent and the Weald, besides which there is a very large proportion of weak and spindly bine. The Sussex grounds are also in an unsatisfactory condition, though they have slightly improved since last week. Our report from Worcester is more favourable. Good progress has been made during the week, and the little blight that exists does not cause planters any anxiety. According to present appearances the most favoured districts this season are Worcester and East Kent. Our reports from the continent continue to record unsettled and ungenial weather, an excessive rainfall. The growth of the plants, consequently, is slow, and on the whole the prospects are not so bright as could be wished at the end of July. In America the crop is going on well, and a heavy yield seems to be expected, particularly on the Pacific coast."

THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PARNELLITE MEMBERS.

It is reported that Mr. O'Donnell intends to move for a new trial of his action against the Times on the ground of misdirection, &c., as soon as his health and opportunities will permit. Meanwhile he protests, it is said, against his interests as a suitor being prejudiced by party legislation, creating an irregular procedure, dealing with the subject matter of his case by name. It is stated that the Speaker of the House of Commons has received a letter from Mr. O'Donnell notifying his intention to appeal for a new trial, and protesting against the unproved allegations of the leading counsel for the Times being assumed as basis for any legislative innovation pending such a new trial.

An extraordinary story was current in the House of Commons on Friday, to the effect that Mr. Parnell is seriously considering the advisability of taking action in the courts of law, if the Government decline to limit the reference to the judicial commission. In case such action were taken, the Irish leader would, it is rumoured, be the sole plaintiff, and the case would be narrowed down to the charges made against him personally, and, if practicable, to the question of the letters. The case would probably come before a Scotch or Irish jury.

AN ENGLISH PARNELLITE WITH A VENGEANCE.

A report is published of a violent speech said to have been delivered by Mr. Cobb, member for the Rugby Division, at a public meeting held at Longmarston, near Stratford-upon-Avon, on Wednesday night, and in the presence of Sir Walter Foster, M.P., and Mr. Winterbottom, M.P. Mr. Cobb is reported to have warned the Government that if John Dillon died in gaol, it would not be the last death that would be caused by that occurrence, and one of two things would happen. The Irish people, if they were strong enough, would rise up and sweep away Dublin Castle, and all the wretched myrmidons there, taking their lives if it was more convenient to do so. If they had not force enough to do that, secret societies would arise and assassinations would occur. He did not advocate assassination, but he believed there had been cases in the history of the world in which assassination had been necessary.

A MISSING HUSBAND.

At Bow-street Police Court on Friday, Mrs. Arkwright, of Huntley-street, made an application in reference to her husband, who had been missing since the 17th inst. He was described as being 72 years of age, and at the time he left home wearing a black suit of working clothes and a red cotton necktie. He is a man about 5ft. 10in. in height, with grey hair and whiskers.

THE DIVORCE COURT. A Case Reheard.

In the Divorce Court, on Thursday, the rehearing was commenced of the consolidated cases of *Boyce v. Boyce* and *Boyce v. Boyce*, which were reported in the *People* at the time of the first hearing.—In the first case, the husband, a driver in the service of the London General Omnibus Company, sought restitution of conjugal rights. In her petition the wife sought a divorce alleging cruelty and misconduct on her husband's part. The action was tried last sittings before Mr. Justice Butt, and, after a three days' trial, his lordship dismissed the prayer of Mrs. Boyce and granted her husband restitution of conjugal rights. After the delivery of that judgment Mrs. Boyce became very excited, and declared that sooner than live with her husband she would go to prison. A short time back application was made to a divisional court, consisting of the Lord Chief Justice and Sir James Hannen for a rehearing on the part of Mrs. Boyce, on the ground that further evidence of the alleged misconduct of the part of her husband had been discovered. It was generally understood then that Mrs. Boyce admitted this, and the Lord Chief Justice stated that there must be a rehearing, which now came on for hearing. Mr. Boyce again appeared in person; and Mr. Willis, Q.C., and Mr. Searle were for the wife. At the outset of the proceedings Mr. Boyce asked for an adjournment, on the ground that his papers in the case were now withheld from him.—His lordship refused the application.

How He Married Her.

Mr. Boyce then went into the witness-box and made a long statement, from which it appeared that he made the acquaintance of his wife through a matrimonial agency, the sum of £100 being paid to the manager for the introduction. They met first of all in Elgin-crescent, Notting Hill, and in 1886 they were married at Christ Church, Clifton. They went on the continent for the honeymoon, and subsequently there was a dispute between them, which ended in his filing a petition for restitution of conjugal rights. He alleged that fraud and jural rights were closely interwoven in the case from start to finish. Referring to the fraud, in respect of which a new trial had been granted, he now stated that he did not intend to convey to the divisional court that he had stayed at the hotel with a woman in a criminal sense. He was "perfectly dumbfounded" at the time.—His lordship remarked that he had then unfortunately succeeded in deceiving everybody connected with the case, for it was generally understood that he meant to confess misconduct.—Mr. Boyce repeated that he was dumbfounded at the time. He then went in detail through the history of his married life.

Some Admissions.

In cross-examination by Mr. Willis, Q.C., he admitted staying with a lady at the Wellington Hotel, Gloucester, on the 19th December, 1886. Asked who she was, Mr. Boyce replied, amid laughter, "That is for you to prove." He refused to disclose the name. Kate Collins did not go to the hotel with him.—His lordship said he could compel the witness to disclose the name or send him to prison, but he did not wish to resort to such an extreme measure.—Mr. Boyce said he kept a lady before marriage, and told his wife so. She acted honourably towards him. Had to do so at the hotel in regard to a monetary arrangement.—Cross-examination continued: The lady and he occupied different rooms, but they were adjoining. He slept on the sofa. If the lady passed as Mrs. Boyce, he knew nothing of this.—His lordship: Do you still refuse to give him her name?—Mr. Boyce: I do. She behaved honourably towards me.—Cross-examination continued: He did not know her present address. Had not seen her since. He met her at the station, and took her to the hotel. He was first introduced to his wife through a matrimonial agency, £100 being paid for the introduction. Miss Walker, his wife's friend, gave him £1,000 prior to the marriage. During the honeymoon Kate Collins wrote to him. He did not swear at his wife before marriage. When he stayed at the Wellington Hotel, Gloucester, he did not tell his wife of this circumstance. Mrs. Boyce might have left his room and gone to the house of Miss Walker's, but it was not owing to his cruelty. It was because she was down and held her by sheer force, but he did not press her throat. He did not see any marks upon her. The witness was taken to the examination in detail as to the alleged cruelty.—Mr. Phillips, of Birmingham, gave evidence to the effect that on the 4th December, 1886, Kate Collins slept at the house.

Kate Collins in the Box.

Kate Collins (against whom misconduct was alleged at the previous hearing) said that she was in communication with Mr. Boyce about putting her in a public-house at Westminster in November, 1886. She received a letter from him to come and see him via Gloucester. She denied that there was ever undue intimacy between them. He had been in his service for fourteen years. He had addressed her as "Jack" because in nursing him and in other matters he had called her "Jack of all trades." (Laughter.) Cross-examined: She might have written him a letter commencing, "Dear old Jack," after his marriage. Mr. Boyce had told her that he was going to meet her at Gloucester. She knew the name of his name, but declined to state it. Had seen letters from her. He had had his meals with the witness when she kept the Star public-house at Westminster. His name was put up at the beer-house. No impropriety of conduct ever took place between them.

The Wife's Case.

This being the close of the husband's case, Mr. Willis, Q.C., addressed the court on behalf of Mrs. Boyce, whom he afterwards called. She said that her maiden name was Hughes. She had a lady friend, Miss Walker, with whom she had lived for some time. She detailed a number of acts of alleged cruelty on her husband's part. He had sworn at her and thrown things at her. On one occasion he held her down and caught her by the throat. She afterwards consulted Sir William Gull. Boyce had also pushed her into a bath. She had not deserted him without reasonable cause.—The case was adjourned.

Late on Thursday night a special messenger was sent to Sir James Hannen's house requesting his lordship's attendance at the Privy Council on Friday, consequently the further hearing of the consolidated action of *Boyce v. Boyce*—*Boyce v. Boyce* was postponed until Monday.

RALLI V. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—This was a suit instituted by Mrs. Harriet Ralli, the widow of P. Constantine Ralli, of Finsbury-square, to have her marriage with that gentleman, celebrated on May 16th, 1880, at Hyde Park-square, the residence of the lady's father, by Narcissus Marvinos, a priest of the Greek Church, and according to the rites of that Church, declared null and void. Mr. H. B. Leane was counsel for the petitioner, and Mr. Deane was counsel for the Attorney-General.—The petitioner was called and stated the circumstances attending her marriage. She was married according to the rites of the Greek Church with the full consent of her parents, and that marriage had never been revoked or annulled. After the marriage she lived with her husband at Westbourne-terrace, and seven children have been born of the marriage. Her husband died on the 31st January, 1873, and for the interests of her children she was anxious to have her marriage declared valid.—Witnesses were then called, who were present at the marriage and who gave a description of the ceremony.—The Greek priest who celebrated the marriage was also called, and the register of the Greek church in which it was entered was produced.—After hearing the evidence, Sir James Hannen pronounced a decree of validity of marriage.

COOPER V. COOPER.—In this case the wife sued for a divorce on the ground of her husband's cruelty and adultery. The husband answered denying the charges, and alleged condonation and

connivance. Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., and Mr. Searle were counsel for the petitioner. The respondent appeared in person.—It appeared that the petitioner was the daughter of a gentleman of independent means, residing in Broomfield-square, Brighton, and she was married to the respondent, a gentleman on the Stock Exchange, at Brighton, on the 29th May, 1881. After the marriage she resided in Normans-square, London, with her husband. In July, 1883, the petitioner's father died, and she alleged that after that, and on various occasions, her husband ill-treated her. The adultery was charged as having been committed with a servant-girl in the family, named Emily Young, who was stated to have had a child, of which the respondent was the father, in January, 1887, and on this adultery having been ascertained, the present suit was instituted.—The respondent cross-examined his wife at considerable length. She denied positively that she was ever in the habit of taking too much brandy.—The father of the girl Emily Young, taken on commission, was then read, which alleged that the child she gave birth to in January, 1887, was not the child of her husband, but that the adultery with Emily Young, having been proved, he should pronounce a decree of judicial separation, with costs, and ordered the wife to have the custody of the child of the marriage.

RADCLIFFE V. RADCLIFFE AND SOMERSET.—In this case the husband sought for a divorce on the ground of his wife's adultery with the co-respondent, Mr. Fitzroy Somerset.—There was also a claim for damages against the latter, but that claim was withdrawn, and the case was consequently undefended. Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., was counsel for the petitioner, who was married at Liverpool to the respondent on the 4th November, 1880. The respondent was the daughter of a gentleman of independent means, residing at a small manor of the present year, when the petitioner received a letter from his wife, dated from the Inns of Court Hotel, and informing him that she had eloped with Charlie Somerset, as she could no longer endure to live with him. Inquiries were then made, when it was found that the parties had lived as man and wife at the Inns of Court Hotel, and evidence of that having been given, Mr. Justice Butt pronounced a decree nisi with costs, and ordered the petitioner to have the custody of the only child of the marriage.

MAURSELL V. MAURSELL AND DUTY.—Sir Henry James, on the part of Major Duty, the co-respondent in this divorce suit, made an application to extend the time for paying the damages (£2,000) into costs, and the time of the trial the damages were ordered by his lordship to be paid within a fortnight. Sir Henry said it was intended to apply to a divisional court to review the amount of the damages, and he now asked that the time for paying in the damages might be extended until that had been decided. After some discussion, it was arranged that the time should be extended to fourteen days from the present time.

A LADY MURDERED BY HER COACHMAN.

The trial has just closed at the assizes of the Seine et Oise, of Abel Charron, a lad of 19, who about two months ago murdered a lady named Madame Saintin, in whose employment he was engaged as a coachman. She was about 70 years old, and lived at Montlery, a small town about twenty miles due south of Paris, in a handsome house in the High-street, with a garden at the back. Although she was very wealthy, her fortune being estimated at £200,000, she kept house on a very small scale, her only servants being a charwoman and young Abel Charron, who acted both as coachman and manservant. She herself did the cooking, and took her meals with the servants. She was a pious Catholic, and used to attend mass every morning during the month of May. The last time she went was on the 24th, and a couple of hours after she had returned a young man appeared at the Town Hall looking very much excited. He said his mistress had just been murdered, and he had seen the murderer jump down from the window. He ran after the man and overtook him, but the latter knocked him down and attempted to strangle him, and Abel Charron, for it was he, pointed to bloody fingermarks on his neck. Proceeding to Madame Saintin's house, accompanied by gendarmes, the mayor found the body of that lady on the landing in front of her bed-room in a pool of blood. Her skull was cleaved open as if with a hatchet. The bed-room drawers had been opened and emptied, but the murderer had not found what he was after. The bonds to bearer in the safe, and a sum of £2,000 in gold, wrapped up in a cloth in a cupboard, were untouched. Dr. Guiraud, who was at once sent for, found the victim still alive. She did not, however, recover speech, and died at three o'clock in the morning. The Director of Criminal Affairs, and the officials of the Police Department were soon on the spot. The murderer, it was agreed, must have been acquainted with the house. Abel Charron repeated his previous statement and gave a description of the assassin, but his suspicion fell at once upon him. An inquiry showed that he had sent £5 to a girl whose acquaintance he had made at the hospital, and who had suddenly departed. The officials then searched his room, and found three towels and a night-shirt stained with blood. The lad, overpowered with evidence, confessed his guilt. His crime had been carefully premeditated. Armed with a hatchet, he waited in her dressing-room for the return of his mistress. As she was going to bed he forced her to the ground. He had stolen her keys the night before, and he opened her drawers and took all the gold he could find, but he was afraid of taking the bank-notes lest their numbers might be known. In reply to the judge's questions, he exclaimed, "Do what you like with me!" When sentence of death was passed he said, "It has served me right."

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A CIVIL SERVANT.

John Charles Adams, 38, described as a civil service writer, Holly-road, Chiswick, was charged on Thursday, at Worship-street Police Court, for having, on the 19th of June, 1888, unlawfully attempted to procure a girl, named Yvill, to become immoral, contrary to the Criminal Law Amendment Act.—Detective-inspector Peel, G Division, said that the prisoner had been apprehended that afternoon, and therefore he wished to have the information read on which the warrant had been granted, and then would ask for a remand.—The father of Agnes Yvill, residing in Radnor-street, St. Luke's, said that his daughter, who was 17 years of age on the 14th of November last, inserted on the 13th of June an advertisement in a daily paper, and a reply was received from the prisoner, in which he described himself as a young man, well connected, with a good income, and, being single, wished for a female companion. The letter was placed in the hands of the police.—Detective-sergeant Sewell, G Division, said that he apprehended the prisoner that afternoon at the General Post Office. On reading the warrant he asked if he was to go with him then, and on witness replying in the affirmative, he said that he was a ruined man. Witness had sent several letters to the prisoner and received replies, and also a present. On the 20th inst., according to an engagement, the prisoner waited at Aldersgate-street Railway Station for an hour and a half. Next day he made another engagement, and then witness met him and told him he was the person who had been corresponding with him as Agnes Yvill, and he took him to the police station at Old-street, where his name and address were taken, after which he was allowed to go.—Mr. Montagu Williams remanded the accused for a week, agreeing to take bail—two sureties in £200 each.

On Thursday afternoon four young men from Hounslow reached Burnham Beeches for the purpose of picnicking. Two of them, brothers, went to bathe in a large pond, known as the Swelley. One, named Arthur W. Lavers, after swimming about for a short time, suddenly disappeared down a deep hole, and did not rise again. Every effort was made to rescue him, but without success, and his body was not recovered until seven hours afterwards.

THE IRISH "PRISON MARTYR."

The inquest on Mr. John Mandeville, alleged to have died in consequence of the treatment he received while undergoing imprisonment, was resumed on Monday at Mitchelstown.—Mr. Florence Joyce, Inspector of Irish Prisons, said he visited Tullamore Gaol, and asked Mr. Mandeville if he had any complaints to make, and he replied that he had not. Witness advised him to conform to the rules, but Mr. Mandeville only smiled and said he was all right.—Captain W. J. Stopford said he was sent by the Home Office to inspect the Irish prisons. Irish prisoners, he said, were allowed a quart of new milk a day, in addition to the diet which English prisoners received, and there was no point in which the English had an advantage over the Irish prisoner.—Dr. McCabe spoke to a medical examination he made of Mr. Mandeville, who was in vigorous health and capable of bearing prison discipline.—On Tuesday the deceased wore the prison dress until his removal to Tullamore, when he was allowed to have his own clothes. The chief warden at Tullamore described Mr. Mandeville's treatment in prison, the forcible removal of his clothes, and the punishment imposed for his refusal to wear the prison dress or clean out his cell. Both he and another warden denied that Mr. Mandeville was ill-treated, and said there was no change in his weight or in his appearance when leaving the prison.—The inquiry was again adjourned.—Captain Featherstonhaugh, the Governor of Tullamore Prison, was examined on Wednesday. He confirmed the statements made by the wardens on the previous day. In cross-examination he declined to say whether he received instructions to deprive Mr. Mandeville of his clothes. He did not believe he suffered from short breathing or sore throat, and said he felt him for breaking the prison rules.—Mr. J. J. Therry, Baronial High Constable, said that last March Mr. Mandeville told him he never felt better in his life.—The examination of Dr. Barr was continued on Thursday. He gave evidence showing the scales of dietary allowed to prisoners in England and Ireland respectively, and said the advantage was with the latter class. He also stated that hard labour in Ireland was considerably less than in England, and that the punishment cell he had seen in Tullamore was superior to any that he had witnessed in England. In cross-examination Dr. Barr stated he did not believe Mr. Mandeville's health was impaired by his treatment at Tullamore, and he had formed an opinion that if Mr. Mandeville had been sentenced to two years' imprisonment instead of two months he would be alive that day. It would be impossible that all the symptoms described by Dr. Kane on November 15th could have disappeared on November 26th, when witness examined him.—On Friday Dr. John W. Moore deposed that there was no connection between the treatment received by Mr. Mandeville in Tullamore Gaol and the disease from which he died. If his treatment had done any serious mischief to his health he could not have kept up the standard of weight mentioned in the course of the inquiry.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

AN UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE.—Isaac John Wilson surrendered to his bail in answer to three indictments charging him with embezzling certain moneys, the property of the trustees of the Shipwrights' Provident Union.—Mr. Bealey, Mr. Sylvester prosecuted, and Mr. Forrest Falcon defended.—The prisoner was indicted in June for a somewhat similar offence, when, after a lengthy hearing, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.—Mr. Bealey now applied for a postponement of the trial on the ground that Mrs. Side, the principal witness in the case, was unable through illness to attend. His lordship declined to postpone the trial, whereupon Mr. Bealey challenged the jury, and challenged, but on its being stated that the jury serving in the Second Court would be available in the course of the day, the challenge was withdrawn.—Mr. Bealey then said he would offer no evidence with regard to the alleged embezzlement in 1886, 1887, and 1888.—The jury therefore, under the direction of the court, returned a verdict of not guilty.

FRAUDS ON TRADESMEN.—Priscilla Staples, who at the June session was convicted of obtaining goods and money from Mr. Hughes, a butcher of Bush Hill Park, Enfield, was brought up to receive sentence. The prisoner by means of false statements, supposed to have been sent by Madame Grimald, who was represented to be the proprietress of an hotel at Margate, had induced the prosecutor to allow her to have money on credit, and also to advance her money. She was last session allowed out on bail, and since then had given birth to a child. No offer had since been made to the prosecutor to recoup him any of the money lent or to settle his account.—His lordship passed a sentence of one month's imprisonment as a second class misdemeanant.

MONEY MARKET.

CITY, Saturday.
Business on the Stock Exchange to-day was over early, and no feature of interest was noted. Foreign Government Securities slightly improved, and in the absence of business Home Railways continued tolerably firm. Americans continue strong, but Canadians have been flat. The Funds have become slightly easier, Consols being quoted at 100½; for money, New Two-and-Three-Quarters, 99½; for account, 99 9-16 11-16; New and Reduced Three, 101½; and New Two-and-a-Half, 99½.

FOREIGN STOCKS.

Argentine, 1886, 97½, 98; Ditto Hard Coal, 68½, 70½; Ditto 1 per Cent, 124½; Costa Rica, A., —; Egyptian Preference, 101½; Ditto United, 57½; Ditto 4 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 5 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 6 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 7 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 8 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 9 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 10 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 11 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 12 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 13 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 14 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 15 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 16 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 17 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 18 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 19 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 20 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 21 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 22 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 23 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 24 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 25 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 26 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 27 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 28 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 29 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 30 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 31 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 32 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 33 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 34 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 35 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 36 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 37 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 38 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 39 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 40 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 41 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 42 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 43 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 44 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 45 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 46 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 47 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 48 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 49 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 50 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 51 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 52 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 53 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 54 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 55 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 56 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 57 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 58 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 59 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 60 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 61 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 62 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 63 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 64 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 65 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 66 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 67 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 68 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 69 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 70 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 71 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 72 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 73 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 74 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 75 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 76 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 77 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 78 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 79 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 80 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 81 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 82 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 83 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 84 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 85 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 86 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 87 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 88 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 89 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 90 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 91 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 92 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 93 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 94 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 95 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 96 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 97 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 98 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 99 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 100 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 101 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 102 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 103 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 104 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 105 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 106 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 107 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 108 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 109 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 110 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 111 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 112 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 113 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 114 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 115 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 116 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 117 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 118 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 119 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 120 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 121 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 122 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 123 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 124 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 125 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 126 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 127 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 128 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 129 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 130 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 131 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 132 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 133 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 134 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 135 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 136 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 137 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 138 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 139 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 140 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 141 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 142 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 143 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 144 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 145 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 146 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 147 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 148 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 149 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 150 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 151 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 152 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 153 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 154 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 155 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 156 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 157 per Cent, 72½; Ditto 158